



Find top
HK labels
in town
Pages 16-17



NBA Bull trains young athletes

Page 8



Splash into summer adventure

Pages 20-21

Ballet meets taichi

Cloud Gate Dance Theatre from Taiwan, acclaimed as Asia's greatest dance-theater company, has returned to Beijing after a 14-year absence. Cloud Gate presented its famed White Snake and Unforgettable Moments of Cloud Gate last night at the Poly Theater.

CFP Photo



Page 10

Follow the treadmarks of the Khans

Page 3

Tallest man finds little lady

Page 4

Intl companies shun Hep B virus carriers



Two billion mice flood lake area in south

By Jiang Xubo

About two million mice are ravaging crops in counties around Lake Dongting in Hunan Province after their homes on the lake's islands were flooded.

The mice have damaged dikes and ruined over 534,158 hectares of crops in 22 counties to varying extents, including rice, peanut, sweet potato and corn crops, a spokesman for the provincial government said.

The government's extermination efforts, however, have brought

the situation under control.

Locals tried everything to kill them – even using clubs and shovels to bludgeon the rodents into submission – and also built walls and ditches to curb the mice's advance.

"The provincial government allocated eight million yuan to renovate walls and fences as part of its efforts to keep the mice out," Liu Nianxi, director of the provincial office for plant protection, said.

Datonghu County in Yiyang City alone has put down as many

as 2.25 million mice – about 90 tons of dead rodent – since late last month, the county government said.

The situation could grow more grim, because the rodents pose a threat to public health. The provincial health authorities sent a team of three medical experts to the worst hit city to prevent a plague outbreak.

The invasion began June 23 when the river flooded, raising the water level in the lake and submerging mouse holes on lake islands.

"The lake beach went dry for a longer period this year because less water came up from the Yangtze, which is just upstream. This provided a perfect environment for the mice to reproduce," Deng Xuejian, professor from the College of Life Sciences, Hunan Normal University, said. "Things got worse when locals began eating snakes, one the rodents' main predators."

The water level is expected to rise higher as the flood season, which started in April and ends in September, continues.

Safe food guaranteed for 2008 Games

By Huang Daohen

Athletes and tourists heading for the forthcoming Beijing Olympics needn't be scared off by recent food safety scandals. The city has already begun a rigorous food tracking and monitoring system for next year, a senior official said, Tuesday.

"Food safety for the Olympic Games will be guaranteed," Sun Wenxu, senior official from the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, said in a press conference at the State Council Information Office to an audience of the nation's food and drug safety watchdogs.

The city will receive 10,500 athletes and an expected 550,000 foreign visitors next year.

Experts estimated that more than 75,000 liters of milk, 330 tons of fruit and vegetables, 82 tons of seafood, 131 tons of meat and 21 tons of cheese will be consumed during the Beijing Olympics.

Sun said in order to ensure everything is served safely, Beijing has detailed a series of technical standards which cover packing, storing and transportation criteria for 345 foods.

All the information would be incorporated into a database, and food supervisors will be aware of the procedures and will be able to trace the source of any incident.

Earlier reports said that round-the-clock guards will be on duty in Olympic kitchens, and food storage areas will be under video surveillance. White mice will be used to test food destined to be consumed by the athletes.

The government has set up an expert panel on food security for the 2008 Olympics, which includes seven Chinese and eight foreign experts. The panel has been mulling specific criteria, testing and monitoring systems for food security.

China has come under great pressure since international alarm was roused over local food exports ranging from drug-tainted fish to toothpastes containing diethylene glycol, Yang Jiangying, a spokeswoman for the State Food and Drug Administration, said.

Have no fear, rescue dog is here



The Olympic Rescue Dog Team debuted at the National Stadium this Wednesday. The team will be in charge of rescue tasks during the 2008 Olympic Game in cases of major security problems.

CFP Photo

Two new Olympic venues to be handed over next week

By He Jianwei

Two new Olympic venues have been completed and will be handed over to the operations department by next Friday, an official from the construction department said Wednesday.

"The Beijing Shooting Range Hall and the Shunyi Olympic Rowing-Canoeing Park are completed and awaiting assessment. They will be handed over to the operations department before July 20," Wu Jingjun, chief engineer and spokesman for the Beijing 2008 Project Construction Headquarters Office, said.

The Shunyi Olympic Rowing-Canoeing Park, located north of

the Beijing Airport, will host a "Good Luck Beijing" test event for the World Rowing Junior Championships from August 8. The event will be one of 11 tests events this August.

Regarding the "Good Luck Beijing" test events, Wu said that all 27 competition venues will be ready on time.

The National Stadium, the main stadium for the Olympics, is expected to be completed by the end of March next year, and the other 37 venues, including 31 in Beijing and six outside the city, will be completed by the end of this year.

Wu said that although a fire broke out on July 2 at the Peking

University Gymnasium, it did not impact the main structure, and a table tennis test event will be held in December.

Despite news of a German subcontractor which worked on the National Stadium in May and went bankrupt the same time, "there has been no negative impact on the construction of the Bird's Nest," Wu said.

The venues projects are characterized by their use of new energies, application of environment-friendly technologies and materials. As many as 69 new energy schemes have been implemented, including solar, geothermal and other power sources, he said.

Survey launched for demand of volunteers

By Huang Daohen

Filling out a five-minute questionnaire could help shape the volunteer services provided during the 2008 Olympics.

As part of the theme activity for the Olympic volunteers, a survey designed to collect the demand for volunteer services in Beijing was launched in Rulun Lecture Hall at Renmin University, Tuesday night.

This survey, organized by the volunteer department of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG), the Beijing Communist Youth League committee, the Beijing Volunteer Association and the Beijing Youth Daily, was open to tourists, both domestic and from abroad, headed to Beijing for next year's Olympics.

Participants may leave com-

ments and suggestions based on his or her experiences in Beijing. The survey will run from July, 2007 to May, 2008.

Participants may fill in the survey form in *Beijing Youth Daily*, *Beijing Today* and *Volunteer* magazine. Questionnaires will be available on airlines and in star-rated hotels. Respondents can also go to ynet.com.cn/beijing2008 to fill out the survey online.

Gov denies participation in the new 7 wonders poll

By Chu Meng

The State Administration of Cultural Heritage said it "neither participated in, nor objected to" the poll to name a new list of the world's seven wonders.

It hopes that the Great Wall's topping the "New Seven Wonders of the World" list will raise public awareness of the need for its protection, a spokesman said, Tuesday.

The poll was launched by New Open World Foundation, a non-governmental organization started by a Swiss businessman and adventurer Bernard Weber. Nearly 100 million people around the globe voted by Internet and phone.

Following the Great Wall were Petra in Jordan, Brazil's Statue of Christ the Redeemer, Peru's Machu Picchu, the Chichen Itza pyramids in Mexico, Rome's Colosseum and the Taj Mahal in India.

When asked to comment on the poll, the administration's spokesman said, "Since it was associated with commercial activities, we had little to say about it." However, "it is great if the campaign can boost public awareness about the need to protect the Great Wall."

The UNESCO denounced the results, stating that the listing was a private initiative that drew on nearly 100 million Internet and telephone voters.

"The campaign responds to other criteria and objectives than that of UNESCO in the field of heritage," Sue Williams, spokeswoman of the UNESCO, said. "We have a much broader vision. The result was, at most, a reflection of the opinions of Internet users, but not that of the world as a whole."

Sue said that "the Seven Wonders of the World should not be generated by a poll of voters with no expert knowledge. In order to guarantee its seriousness and the authority of the selection, it should be launched by UNESCO, and judged by scientists and academics after careful evaluation."

But Dong Yaohui, vice president of the Academy of the Great Wall of China AGWC, said the result of the poll could help Great Wall protection efforts. "The Great Wall is being damaged because there are still people who fail to recognize its importance. It needs to be protected by all, especially the people living close to it," Dong said.

Egyptian authorities described the campaign as purely commercial and lacking scientific standards, and insisted on removing the pyramids of Giza from the contest's list of candidate sites.

Blogger's movie pipe dream close to reality

By Han Manman

Film-crazed blogger Han Wei, who dreamed of shooting a blogger movie with blogger staff and beating the high-budget productions, is finally on the road to making his dream come true, thanks to a two million yuan investment from a local company.

Han made the spotlight when he announced his "one yuan blog movie" plan last year, which attracted thousands of bloggers to apply for a role. However, after many reports on his plan, he disappeared from public sight, which made people think that he was promoting himself.

"I have not quit. I was busy seeking sponsorship this year, and I've finally found it," Han, who planned to shoot a series of seven to ten films with the funds, said. Each of the films would be around 100 minutes, featuring the theme "We are China" and telling stories about common people's "love, responsibility and strife in preparing for the Beijing Olympics."

The director was "looking for actors without performance experience and staff without shooting experience." Everyone in the troupe would receive a payment of only one yuan, and the films' profits would be donated to the commonwealth.

As a long-term observer of the Chinese film industry, Han said that the current Chinese movie industry falls far short of his expectations. "I know some famous directors, and even some Hollywood directors: they cannot even be called directors, and their films are nothing in my eyes," Han said, "I will show them that amateur actors, playwrights, photographers, designers and lighting engineers can make a better film."

Selection of actors for the first episode of the series started this week, and is expected to end within the month. The film will begin shooting in September.

Han fell in love with film as a middle school student and has studied film theory on his own for more than a decade. To pursue his movie dream, Han resigned from his job and came to Beijing seven years ago. However, no matter how hard he tried, he failed to break into the movie industry, even for a minor role.

World's tallest man picks up bride half his age

By Xu Fan

Driving a six-meter wide Leleche, a traditional Mongolian carriage pulled by bulls, and led by 99 Mongolian warriors and 49 cavalrymen, 56-year-old Bao Xishun, the world's tallest man, picked up his 28-year-old bride in Inner Mongolia yesterday.

"Taking one's fiancé is just one step in the traditional Mongolian three-day wedding ceremony, which copies the practices of Mongolian nobles back in Genghis Khan's time [about 900 years ago]," the 2.36-meters-tall groom said when his 1.68-meter bride, Xia Xijuan, was preparing their custom-tailored wedding clothes.

The couple plans to wed in Genghis Khan's mausoleum, the world's largest Mongolian *yurt*, a type of house.

Bao met his true love on the sixth day of this year's Spring Festival. He sent marriage advertisements around the world last year, and while he met nearly 30 women, he failed to find the right one. One day, Bao's agent heard that a friends' roommate, a salesgirl, was single. He thought about presenting her to Bao.

Xia was hardly shocked when she first saw the giant. A month later, the couple decided to get married.

"He is very nice and humorous. Whenever I got off work at the clothing store, I headed to his apartment. We watched TV and talked a lot. I quit my job to prepare for our wedding after we obtained our marriage certificate," she said.

Though Bao still lives in a 20-square-meter rented apartment, the couple plans to move into a new home — an 80-square-meter two-bedroom apartment. "We are just waiting for the key. We would have been in the new place already if the developers hadn't deferred again and again. When we get the key, our relatives will come to help with the decorations."

Despite the trouble, Bao is still delighted about his furniture, which will be finished soon. Because of his height, the newly-ordered bed has to be 2.8-meters-long and 2.2-meters-wide. The dining table and chair are also raised up about 0.3 meters higher than normal. The furniture manufacturer has made two types of chairs and a special sofa for him.

The couple plans to start a supermarket in the future.

Bao, born in 1951, is a herdsman from Inner Mongolia and was recognized by Guinness World Records as the world's tallest naturally-grown man in early 2005.



CFP Photo

Tongzhou lists traditional folk artists on cards

By Zhao Hongyi

The US troops used playing cards to route out the officials of Hussein Saddam's regime in Iraq. In Beijing, the Tongzhou District government is printing its folk artists on cards and sending them out as free business cards in an effort to recognize the disappearing artists and their trades.

The King of Toufu, Kite Descent, Gourd Zhang ... each master has his or her own card, like the Queen of Hearts, 10 of Diamonds and 6 of Spades. But most of these suits are filled by artists in their 80s and 90s. "We are worried that they and their skills will vanish," Wang Luxin, one of the project initiators, said.

Even though they are proud to be listed, they are still wary of which card they end up on. "No one wants the 4 of Spades, which is considered unlucky," Wang said, laughing.

So far, Wang and his colleagues have found 44 folk artists. Ten cards are still waiting for new faces, including the Red Joker for the greatest and most qualified artist.

"They aren't easy to track down," Wang said. "They are living in every corner of the city. We have to really dig to find anyone who knows any of these artists."

Traditional folk arts are facing fierce competition from modern industries. This marginalizes them and makes it hard to earn a living. Most of these elders' children do not want to inherit their craft.

The initiators once heard of an elder who can blow hundreds of candy figures. They found him a small mountain village, but he was too old and couldn't muster the air to keep doing it.

Brief news

15 million vehicles

The number of vehicles in the country surpassed 15 million at the end of last month, and more than 75 percent are privately owned, a Ministry of Public Security spokesman said.

Surge in foreign exchange reserve

The country's foreign exchange reserves reached US\$1.33 trillion at the end of last month, up 41 percent from this period of last year, a People's Bank of China representative said, Wednesday.

Increased travel abroad

About 16 million Chinese traveled overseas in the first five months of the year, up 14 percent from the same period of last year, a spokesman for the China National Tourism Administration said.

(By Jiang Xubo)

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- Coordinate response to information requests from China supporters, and undertake research and consultation to maintain up-to-date position statements for IFAW China
- Maintain a well-organized information centre of press cuttings, video footage, news releases, slides, books, reports and briefing documents, and ensure that all information is filed and easily accessible to all IFAW staff
- Maintain use records for equipments in the China Communications department, such as digital video and camera etc.

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Bottled water leads to more doubts over food safety

By Annie Wei

The safety of Chinese food products from poisonous pet food to noodles made with borax to fish dried with insecticide has caused a serious public scare. This week, a report by the *Beijing Times* revealed half of the water coolers in Beijing are using unsafe water.

On Wednesday, the Beijing Cold Beverages Association announced that a new regulation to supervise water delivery stations would be put into effect in October. The new regulation asks water delivery stations to get business permits from authorities, health certificates of all its employees, to purchase bottled water from legal channels, as well as showing that their products purchasing documents to customers. **Half of Beijing's bottled water is unsafe**

According to the *Beijing Times* newspaper's lengthy report on Monday, an anonymous sales manager of an unnamed bottled water company was quoted as saying that there were 100 million bottles of bottled water sold in Beijing last year, and the brands from Wahaha, Robust, Nestle and Yanjing's sales numbers totaled 25-30 million.

"However, there were around



Chinese law enforcement workers from local industrial and commercial administration inspect an illegal water supply station in Beijing, July 9.

20,000 water distribution stations in Beijing, and each has at least sold 1,000 bottles of water per month,

which means the annual sales of bottled water reached 200 million. Therefore, half of the bottled water

is counterfeit," he said.

The reason for the widespread amount of fake bottled water on the market is because a barrel of fake water costs only 2.5 yuan to three yuan, while the real ones cost at least 6 yuan each, according to the report. The profit margin is obviously higher by selling fake products.

Liang Jun, the sales manager of the C'estbon Beijing Office agreed with the situation. According to Liang, C'estbon (Shenzhen) Company was a leading bottled water company with 20 million bottles of water sold annually in Guangdong last year. To expand the market share, the company tried to enter the Beijing market last September.

Liang said that they visited more than 1,000 water distribution stations and found that most of them had shady counterfeit business practices.

The newspaper unveiled in detail how a

Beijing bottled water distribution station failed to put purified water into the jugs and sealed it with bogus quality-standard marks. The water distribution station under question was shut down by local authorities the next day.

Authority's response

Wu Jiaping, the director from the production supervision department of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, promised on Tuesday that they have started an investigation after the report surfaced.

In the meantime, Wu said, "According to their spot-check results, 96 percent of Beijing's water coolers were qualified." Also according to Wu, the Beijing Bureau of Quality and Technical

Supervision has checked out 162 products from 141 drinking water manufactures in Beijing in May. But Wu admitted that certain water distribution locations might use unsafe water and they would reveal their results to the public after the investigation.

Wu said he wanted to remind the media that they should not generalize the behavior of certain water distribution places as if it was the whole industry.

Big water companies deny report

Beijing offices of well-known bottled water companies such as Wahaha, Nestle and Robust refused to provide their sales numbers in the city.

Zhao Ying, a staff member from the Wahaha bottled water office said that the report from the *Beijing Times* did not get the facts straight.

"In my personal opinion, I think it's some small brand's exag-

geration to get public attention," Zhao said, "Where did our products sell to if 100 million bottles of counterfeit water were already sold to our customers?"

Zhao said that fake branding bottled water was in fact quite a small percentage of the market, because they had an anti-fake department which has sent staff members to inspect the water delivery station regularly, as well as reporting the number they print on the bottles for customers to call.

Nestle Bottled Water's Beijing office said that they and other brands like Wahaha and Robust were trying to talk to the *Beijing Times* to clarify the facts, but refused to provide more data or information.

Intl companies shun HBV carriers

By Huang Daoheng

You might not complain if you were denied in a job application for health reasons, such as SARS and tuberculosis, however, you would not like it if it were for hepatitis B Virus (HBV).

Nowadays, HBV has become a big obstacle to the education, work and even marriages of carriers.

An employment report on HBV carriers released by the Fund for Hepatitis Prevention and Treatment of China (FHPTC) recently shows that around 80 percent of the foreign companies in China refuse to hire HBV carriers. Ninety-six percent of them require an HBV test before employing a person.

The survey, according to *Beijing Youth Daily* reports, was conducted among the human resource departments of 115 subsidiaries or joint ventures of 98 multinational companies in mainland China, most of which are located in Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai Hangzhou, and Guangdong.

It turned out that 77 percent of the human resource departments of these companies said that they would not recruit people carrying HBV. And this included the human resource departments of Motorola, Siemens, Philips, Foxconn, Sony and Samsung.

Company response

Currently, many companies and enterprise refuse to employ HBV carriers. They have been asking those job-hunters who pass interviews to take physical checks-ups,

including liver function and important hepatitis B indexes, before signing a contract.

Some enterprises may even fire their employees if they find they are HBV carriers.

Foxconn Technology Group, a Taiwan based Global Fortune 500 enterprise, was designated in the report to be a typical company in the discrimination on the HBV carriers. The company, the report said, stated verbatim in its recruitment website that HBV carriers are denied.

However, an anonymous staff member in the human source sector denied what the report has said on Tuesday. The alleged HBV refusal statement for recruitment on its website was not available, instead it says, "Employees shall not affect the staff health and be competent to the position."

"I knew one person who was refused employment with a large company when he was found to be an HBV carrier," David Zhang, who used to be an HR worker, said.

"In fact, most of these foreign companies refused to hire HBV carriers for fear that they will transmit the virus to the rest of the staff," he added.

Zhang said that most global companies claim that they won't discriminate against HBV patients in offering job opportunities, but they often fail to implement this policy at their branches in China.

No threat of HBV carriers

At present, there are more than 120 million HBV carriers in

China, accounting for ten percent of China's total population.

Kong Min, a doctor from FHPTC, said that it is ignorant for these companies not to hire them. A person is usually considered an HBV carrier if three out of five important indices in a special hepatitis B examination are positive.

"People with the HBV virus are considered to be carriers but not patients as long as their liver function is OK. "HBV patients do not pose any threat to the public." She said.

Law to protect patients

Su Chong'ao, secretary general of FHPTC, disapproves of the discrimination on HBV carriers and urges a ban on this forced test of HBV. "The testing and counseling of HBV should be conducted on a voluntary and confidential basis," Su said.

The National People's Congress has proved on June 24 a draft amendment to the employment promotion law on the prevention and control of infectious diseases.

The amendment clearly stipulates that enterprises or employers should not deny or terminate employment of HBV carrier applicants or workers.

In addition, the Ministry of Personnel and the Ministry of Health recently co-issued the recruitment standard for health examinations of people wanting to be public servants. The new standard rules states that HBV carriers are now eligible for public service positions.



Lin Wei, vice director of China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, drinks a glass of water at a press conference in Beijing on Tuesday.

FBI's ad to uncover Chinese espionage draws anger in Chinatown



FBI Director Robert Mueller

CFP Photos

San Francisco (sfgate.com) – A Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) ad aimed at Chinese-speaking citizens, asking for information about Beijing-sponsored espionage in the US or any other criminal activity, is drawing flak in San Francisco's Chinatown and at the Chinese Consulate.

The ad started running Saturday in three local Chinese-language papers – the *World Journal*, *Ming Pao Daily* and *Sing Tao Daily*.

Translated, it reads, "Chinese living here have often helped the FBI prevent subversive elements from penetrating and harming our country. In order to protect our freedoms and democracy, we continue to seek your assistance."

Sing Tao Editor Joseph Leung said the ad had prompted calls from several unhappy readers – including one at the Chinese Consulate, wondering just how long it would run.

"It is a concern," a spokesman at the consulate said. The spokesman declined further comment, saying, "Perhaps the consulate will

make a statement at the proper time."

The unusual campaign comes just as the FBI is making big headlines in Chinatown with its corruption investigation of San Francisco Supervisor Ed Jew, a third-generation Chinese American who runs a flower shop IN Chinatown.

Officials at the local FBI office conceded that they had received a number of calls from people concerned about the agency's intentions. However, they said the ad was no different from the one they took out a couple of years back in the East Bay, seeking the public's help in rooting out political corruption.

One person who isn't buying that response is Chinese Chamber of Commerce consultant Rose Pak.

"I just think it's the bumbling FBI," Pak said. "First they recruit newly-arrived monolingual immigrants, then they spend hundreds of thousands targeting the same group of immigrants – like they did with [accused Los Alamos National Laboratory spy] Li Wenhe."

China attacks US over advertisement

New Delhi (hindustantimes.com) – China on Tuesday rejected the US allegation that Chinese spies were working to infiltrate the US government as "totally groundless" and blamed it on a handful of people who cling to a Cold War mentality.

The sharp response came after the FBI ran advertisements in San Francisco newspapers asking readers to provide information about Chinese espionage activities in the US.

"The contents of the advertisements of the US are totally groundless," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said, adding that China wanted to express its "indignation and resolute opposition" to the FBI's action.

Qin said China would never do anything to

overthrow a foreign government or undermine another's security interests or their territorial integrity, and emphasized that Chinese security agencies fulfilled their responsibilities in accordance with law.

He blamed the incident on a "handful of people in the US, acting against the trends of time and clinging to a Cold War-mentality, and attempting to sully China's image."

They were attempting to incite fears about the "China's threat" theory as Beijing's influence grew, Qin said.

"China urges those involved in the US to take immediate and effective measures to correct their erroneous acts and eradicate the terrible impact," he said.

FBI addresses concern in San Francisco

San Francisco (sanfrancisco.fbi.gov) – On July 2, the FBI placed an advertisement in three local Chinese-language newspapers. The advertisement, scheduled to run until July 8, solicited assistance from the Chinese community in accomplishing the FBI's counter-espionage mission.

The FBI is not asking members of the Chinese community to spy on one another or to spy on the Chinese government. Many members of our community speak little to no English, or are simply much more comfortable communicating in their native language. The FBI intended the Chinese-language advertisement to provide an avenue for Chinese-speaking residents of the San Francisco Bay Area to share information related to wrongdoing of any kind. We seek

information about those conducting illicit activities on our shores and intending to harm the US.

The FBI does not conduct espionage; rather, we are charged with standing in the way of those who would steal classified material, vital technology or trade secrets. Threats may come from foreign governments, corporate interests or even from within our own borders. The FBI relies on information from all avenues to effectively protect our domestic assets, and the community – irrespective of national origin, language, race or religion – is the first line of defense.

Newspaper advertisements such as this one allow the FBI's message to reach a much larger audience than by individual contact alone.

An English translation of the advertisement:

San Francisco (sanfrancisco.fbi.gov) – The FBI has many responsibilities. One of these is to protect our domestic security and civil rights. Chinese living here have often helped the FBI prevent subversive elements from penetrating and harming our country. In order to protect our freedom and democracy, we continue to seek your assistance. We would like to speak with individuals who have information about any intelligence service whose intent is to harm the US. We especially welcome anyone who has information about the Chinese Ministry of State Security to contact our office. There will be Chinese-speaking agents available for those who speak no English.

Please call and ask for Special Agent House (415) 553-7400 or write to FBI, PO Box 36015, San Francisco, CA 94102. The identity of anyone who contacts the FBI will be kept in strict confidence.

(By Jiang Xubo)

Gov relaxes one-child family policy

Beijing (indiatimes.com) – China, the world's most populous nation, has significantly eased its one-child family planning policy, allowing couples to have a second child if they both come from single-child families.

In all provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, except for Henan Province, couples in which both parents are only children may give birth to two children, Yu Xuejun, spokesman for the National Population and Family Planning Commission, said.

As much as 11 percent of the population, mostly minority groups like Tibetans, are free to have two or more children, he said. He said that since 2000, the government has been adjusting the family planning policy to maintain the birth rate, not lower it.

China's national family planning policy – implemented in 1979 – allows rural families to raise two children but limits urban families to one child.

Beijing airport gears up for summer Games

Beijing (Reuters) – Beijing's main airport will likely handle more flights than London Heathrow or Paris Charles de Gaulle during the 2008 Olympics, and will be "challenged" by the increased passenger numbers, a local newspaper said, Thursday.

"During the Games, the number will be between 1,700 and 2,000," *China Daily* quoted Zhang Yuehua, in charge of air traffic plans for the Games, as having said.

Even with the opening of a third runway next March, that number could prove hard to handle, he said.

"When the daily movement reaches 1,700 or the capital airport encounters thunderstorms that last less than an hour, we will launch the blue scheme, under which additional air routes will be opened," Zhang said.

When that number hits 1,900, or flights need to be diverted to Beijing from another Olympic host city – like Qingdao – non-Olympic flights will be suspended and the military asked to open up its airspace, he said.

Nearby airports will also be put on standby to take diverted flights if bad weather closes Beijing for several hours.

Capital to clear 'uncivilized' elements from subway stations

Beijing (dailytimes.com) – Beijing plans to start clearing beggars and other "uncivilized" elements from major city subway stations next week as it continues sprucing up for next year's Olympics, Xinhua reported last Friday.

Enforcement teams will begin patrolling four key lines on Monday to chase out the beggars, peddlers and performers who flock to subway stations during the summer months to escape the city heat, the *Beijing News* said.

New rules regulate foreign private equity firms

Beijing (XFN-ASIA) – China is preparing to set new rules to some forms of investment by foreign private equity funds, the Beijing-based *Economic Observer* reported this week.

The newspaper, citing a newly drafted circular by the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE), said that the

administration wants to tighten restrictions on the use of special purpose vehicles for mergers and acquisitions in China.

It said that under the new rules, foreign-funded special purpose companies that have not completed required registration procedures and those that have completed procedures but have

not operated continuously for three consecutive years will not be allowed to undertake mergers and acquisitions in China.

The newspaper also said that domestically funded companies that have set up offshore companies will also find it more difficult to use offshore special purpose vehicles for investment in China.

They will need to prove the legality of their overseas operations, certify minimum continuous operation and show evidence of reporting for tax purposes.

The newspaper said that the regulations had been sent out to SAFE offices around the country. It was not clear when they might take effect.

Ministry denies stepping into dispute

Beijing (AP) – The Ministry of Commerce said it has no intention to step into the disputes between France's Groupe Danone SA and its Chinese beverage joint venture partner, Hangzhou Wahaha Group Co, local media said.

Wang Xinpei, the spokesman of the ministry, replied to the *China Business Times* that it has no plan to involve in the battle.

"China has a full set of business related laws and regulations and we'll keep a neutral stance," Wang said in the interview.

Earlier reports said the ministry has asked the two sides to submit materials related to their dispute, seeming to involve.

Danone and its Chinese partner, Zong Qinghou, chairman of Hangzhou Wahaha, have been waging a public battle since April.

Danone accuses Wahaha of illegally selling products identical to those sold by the companies' joint ventures. The French company has filed a lawsuit in Los Angeles seeking US\$100 million for the alleged illegal sales and has also filed for arbitration in Stockholm to help resolve the dispute.

Zong responded by resigning from the chairmanship of the joint venture, and accused board members of Danone of slandering and bullying him.

Zong said the contracts signed a decade ago have many traps that are driving him and other Chinese partners out of the joint venture. Zong appealed that Danone cheated them due to their lack of experiences at that time.

Zong founded the Wahaha group in the 1980s. In mid-1996, along with Danone he began establishing a string of nearly 40 joint ventures, each 51 percent owned by Danone.

Dollar continues sliding



A clerk counting US dollars received yesterday at a bank in Beijing.

The US dollar keeping dropping against the yuan, surpassing the 7.6 threshold at 7.5712.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Commerce admitted that total foreign trade surplus in the first six months has accumulated to US\$112.53 billion, pushing the country's foreign reserves to a record high of US\$1.3326 trillion.

CFP Photo

BlackBerry nearly ripe for picking

By Dianna Bai and Zoe Li

Research in Motion, a Canada-based company, has won clearance from the Ministry of Information Industry to sell the popular BlackBerry smart phone in China.

The 8700G model may hit Beijing stores at the end of the month and will cost about 5,000 yuan (US\$661), according to

Canadian press reports. The *Toronto Globe and Mail* reported that one Beijing company has ordered 5,000 units.

The 7200 and 7290-model handsets will also be available, a China Mobile representative confirmed. Although RIM has not yet finalized the importation strategy for the handheld devices, China Mobile is already offering Black-

Berry's "push e-mail" service and SIM cards supporting BlackBerry service, Katie Lee, the Asia-Pacific spokesperson for RIM, said.

With China Mobile's 300 million users, analysts predict RIM's joint venture with the largest cellular provider in China will increase the BlackBerry customer base – currently 10 million – by 25 percent.

Wal Mart sentenced to double compensation

By Zhao Hongyi

A court in Beijing reached a verdict earlier this week that Beijing Wal Mart was cheating its customers and ordered the retail giant to pay 8,900 yuan (US\$1,200) compensation to a customer who filed the case.

In January, Wal Mart Beijing promoted "Red Well" brand flaxseed oil, claiming the cooking oil could prevent cancer, aid weight loss and reduce blood pressure.

Many customers purchased the oil in mass. Yang Fuyan is one of them. He spent 4,470 yuan for 30 bottles of the cooking oil.

A friend reminded Yang that it was rare to hear of an oil with so many uses. Yang approached the Haidian Health and Sanitation Bureau who tested the oil and found the claims groundless.

The bureau, together with the district's Bureau of Industry and Commerce, fined Beijing Wal

Mart 5,000 yuan for the swindle. However, no one compensated Yang for his complaint. Yang filed suit in local court.

In court, Wal Mart said they had already been fined by the two bureaus and admitted the "mistake," but refused to further compensate Yang's loss.

The retailer defended that Yang purchased 30 bottles at once, and was suspicious of reselling them for a profit.

The court ruled out that Wal Mart intended to cheat customers and had to compensate Yang with 8,900 yuan – twice his original expenditure.

"Multinationals must mind their behavior in the local market as most native customers believe they should provide higher standards and honest services," Yang Xinli, a lawyer and partner of the Yang Ke Law Firm in Beijing, told *Beijing Today*.

China to build refinery in Syria

Beijing (AP) – Syria and China are discussing to jointly build a US\$1 billion oil refinery in eastern Syria, local media reports.

Syria's deputy premier Abdul-lah al-Dardari, discussed the proposal with Premier Wen Jiabao this week in a visit to Beijing, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

A deal would be signed after a feasibility study is carried out, the report quoted Syria's oil minister, Sufian Allaway, as saying.

The refinery would have a daily capacity of 70,000 barrels of crude.

Aggreko to power Beijing Olympics

Beijing (Reuters) – Britain's Aggreko Plc said it had been selected by the organizers as the exclusive supplier of temporary power and temperature control systems to the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008.

Aggreko said it would also provide maintenance and repair services and would receive some marketing rights under the deal.

Campbell's to sell soup in China

Mount Laurel, New Jersey (AP) – Campbell Soup Co, the world's largest soup maker, hopes to capture at least part of the huge China's soup market.

The company plans to sell two types of broth under its Swanson brand-name, which has been selling in Hong Kong since the 1980s. Campbell's said Swire Beverages, a Coca Cola bottler, will distribute the products.

The company wants to launch sales in five cities in Guangdong Province first.

Auchan to double stores in two years

Shanghai (Reuters) – Privately held French supermarket group Auchan SA plans to double the number of its stores in China in two years, accelerating expansion in the world's fastest-growing major consumer market.

Auchan runs 17 stores in China and will add eight outlets this year and 10 next year, mostly in Beijing and Shanghai.

Auchan's China sales jumped 32 percent to 6.2 billion yuan (US\$775 million) in 2006.

Anta listed in HK stock market

By Jackie Zhang

Athletic footwear maker Anta (China) Co Ltd was listed in the Hong Kong (HK) stock market Tuesday. The IPO collected HK\$3.17 billion (US\$406 million) and is sponsored by Morgan Stanley.

It is the second mainland sports wear company listed in HK after Li Ning Co Ltd.

Leslie Alexander, owner of the Houston Rockets, holds 8.2 percent of the company's shares at HK\$234 million (US\$30 million), Lai Shixian, chairman and CEO of Anta, said.

Employees urged to keep mourning their ex-boss



The reception desk of Foxconn's Beijing office.

CFP Photos

By Huang Daohen

Foxconn, one of the largest manufacturers of electronics and computer components worldwide, is best known for its scandalous working conditions discovered last year.

This time, according to the *Beijing News*, it has told its employees to continue mourning its boss Guo Taicheng.

On July 4, Guo, the ex-boss of Foxconn and the younger brother of the richest man in Taiwan died of cancer in Beijing.

An internal document was then transferred to all the departments of the Group the same day, which forbids all the employees from wearing clothing of conspicuous color, and requires employ-



The passed-off Guo Taicheng

ees to mourn for their deceased leader in a temporarily memorial hall in the company, which was formerly a dining hall.

An insider showed the internal document, on which it writes, "From July 5, clothing of red, yellow and pink color is prohibited in the company. All decorations in the office must be withdrawn; the flowers and the bonsai must be kept temporarily in the warehouse."

The insider also said that funeral music and the biography of Guo Taicheng are broadcast continuously these days.

Liu Kun, a spokesman for the company, denied the internal documents. "The mourning for Mr Guo is strictly voluntary," Liu said.

Still, the "employee mourning for their boss" phenomena sparked a heated debate among the public.



Real name online has long been a hot topic but has never been implemented yet in China.

CFP Photo

Real names online: mission impossible?

By Huang Daohen

Should online posting be anonymous or not?

Xiamen, a city in the southern Chinese province of Fujian, is preparing a new rule to ban anonymous web postings, or rather, requiring the use of real names on the Internet, the *Beijing Youth Daily* reported last Friday.

Tian Feng, the vice director of the Xiamen Municipal Industry and Commerce Bureau, was quoted as saying earlier this month that the Bureau had begun a draft edition of "Measures for Management and Disposition of Harmful and Unhealthy Information on the Internet," which the municipal government will look over in the near future.

Xiamen would be the first city in China to require the use of real names online. The mea-

sures will apply to more than one hundred thousand websites registered in Xiamen.

The initial purpose of the measure, according to Tian, came after local residents used the Internet to successfully halt construction of a massive chemical factory.

Controversy arose over the question of what constitutes proper management. Many people fear that management would go so far as to infringe upon people's rights.

With 120 million users in China, the Internet has become a powerful tool for the spread of opinions and information. Nevertheless, new technology often proves to be a double-edged sword. The Internet can promote freedom, but also provides a forum for information and activities that go against the law.

Comment

No right to legislate

According to the law, Xiamen has no right to legislate such changes. Only the National People's Congress has the right to legislate on such an issue.

— He Bing, legal expert

Clearly defined law needed

Regarding the real-name arrangement, there must be clearly defined and applicable laws that prevent the identity of Internet users from being leaked out and misused.

Policy-makers must ensure that people's rights are not damaged while imposing Internet laws and regulations.

— Joey Emma

Great idea

I think it's a great idea. Finally, China will have the most civilized forums in the world under this new legislation.

Freedom has its limits, no matter where you live, including the US.

— Redknife

Registration could help

Registration will help ensure that irrelevant posts like "Real China News" do not appear on Internet forums.

Some posters are not really interested in discussing the issues raised in the news articles.

God knows what their real motives are.

Support Registration

Actually most Internet forums in other countries require posters to register first before being allowed to post messages.

Full name and email address are required in the registration form, among other information in those countries.

— ISO

Responsibility is the key

How to balance privacy and public interests is very important for everyone.

Some people think the real name system is the only way to protect public interests and some people think it is "absurd" to enforce such a system.

Who is right? Both sides have their reasons. I think responsibility is the key.

— Johnny

Not an efficient method

I don't think it's a good or efficient method to keep the Internet safe and private.

As I expected, most of the bloggers will give up their identities once the real name system is implemented.

— Kevin

(Source: AP and Danwei.org)

Comment

Absolute shame

It's ridiculous! Foxconn, as a Global Fortune 500 company, has been set back again by scandal. It's incredibly shameful.

— Freud Schade

Mandatory requests are rude

It is all right that employees should not wear too colorful or dazzling clothes, which shows the least respect for the deceased. However, it's rude for the company to issue an internal document to make it mandatory.

— Wen Dao

Do it if you care

To be frank, everyone has his or her own ground, but that depends on the individual.

However, if the man is worth your hearty respect, then do it.

— Rivi

Mutual respect

If there is no mutual respect between people, how can we build a harmonious society? Should we celebrate when a public figure, who made an important contribution to the company, passes away?

We should feel that it is natural, but should not be forced by some documents. It seems our own sense of respect has to be strengthened.

— Old Wang

Common sense

It should just be common sense. Imagine if one of your colleagues died all of a sudden.

People mourn for those who have passed and wear a glorious white dress. I don't think it's proper all the same.

— Hongwei Zhang

(Source: china.com)

NBA legend arrives

By Huang Daohen

Retired NBA legends Scottie Pippen landed in Beijing this week and paid a visit to the famed Beijing No.4 Middle School, sharing his knowledge with young basketball fans on Tuesday.

The six-time NBA champion, who is best-known for being the Chicago Bulls' second weapon during the Michael Jordan era, was on a promotional trip to Beijing, after ending the "Basketball Without Borders" with Yao Ming in Shanghai during the past weekend.

"We would like to teach them what it's like to be an NBA player. But they'll learn more than just basketball, such as how to take care of themselves," Pippen was quoted by *Titian Sports* as saying, suggesting that kids should work extremely hard if they want to play in the NBA some day.

When asked about the level of basketball in China, Pippen replied, "Well, we don't have a Yao Ming in the US."

Pippen seemed very excited about his first visit to China. "I wanted to come and see what China's all about. I've never been here," he said, "China is intriguing and you read a lot about



Scottie Pippen gives a basketball lesson to middle school students.

CFP Photo

it but seeing it 'face-to-face' is completely different."

During the one-hour training session, the participants listened intently, while watching the pros at a demonstration on dribbling or shooting and then trying their hardest to imitate it.

As well as spending time work-

ing with the kids, the former NBA star also visited the new basketball stadium for the year's Olympics in the Wukesong in Haidian District.

For the 19 year-old Yi Jianlian, who was picked sixth by the Milwaukee Bucks in the recent NBA Draft but has expressed unwillingness to play for them, Pippen

urged Yi to reconsider his decision, adding that he should just be happy to be in the NBA.

"I think he should really reconsider and embrace the fact that not only are you a part of the NBA, but you have a chance to go out and make a name for yourself," Pippen said.

Weiqi enthusiasts come to camp

By Jackie Zhang

A group of 18 Go fans from 11 countries arrived in Beijing recently for their fourth *weiqi* summer camp. Last Sunday, they completed their first competition and communication with Chinese *weiqi* players.

Carl Johan Ragnarsson from Sweden is one of the organizers of the camp. "The first summer camp took place in the summer of 2004," he said, "At that time, I had only played *weiqi* for around six months. A friend of mine, Yao Hongjie, is Chinese and had lived in Sweden for many years. He had many years experience of playing *weiqi*. Since we had been to countries including South Korea and Japan, we thought it was also possible to come to Beijing for a *weiqi* summer camp."

Ragnarsson said that there are



Ragnarsson playing Weiqi with Chinese fans in a friendship competition last year.

Photo provided by Carl Johan Ragnarsson

some websites in European countries and the US where people can play chess or *weiqi* online and communicate. He had met

with many *weiqi* fans there and became friends with them. "The members for the summer camp are all from the website. We know

about each other online and then came to Beijing for the camp."

Every year, the summer camp comes to Beijing from June to August. They not only communicate with local *weiqi* players, but also have courses given by professional players that teach them techniques and knowledge.

The most impressive experience for Ragnarsson during the camp was playing against Chang Hao, a top Chinese player who has won several championships in China and abroad over the last two years. "Of course I lost, but the chance of playing with a master is a valuable experience," Ragnarsson said.

Ragnarsson is trying to invite the Chinese champion of this year's international amateur *weiqi* competition in Japan. "It is quite possible that he will come."

Cabbage mixes it up

By Gan Tian

DJ crew Baicai, or Cabbage in English, came to rock the Alfa Pub in Sanlitun with their mix of minimal techno last Saturday night.

The party began at around 10pm with two DJs mixing different beats into minimal techno, characterized by a stripped-down, glitchy sound, simple 4/beats, repetition of short loops, and subtle changes.

Baicai comprises of four people: Thomas Gaestadius from Sweden in charge of overall musical development, graphic designer and community builder Song Zhiqi from China, marketing and promotion Maxime Bureau from France, and Florian Eysler from Germany, who is in charge of business development. Forming just over a year ago, Baicai has made its name in many clubs around the city with their special tastes in music.

"Because cabbage is really an interesting thing - when a foreigner comes to Beijing he sees baicai all over the streets. It's easy for everyone to know this word," explained Gaestadius. "At least that's the situation when I arrived here three years ago."

They started off by throwing outdoor parties in the capital last year. With a concept of creative advertising and bouncing underground music they began promoting regular events at Beijing's small to midsize clubs by autumn. It went under the name of 'minimal dancing' and specifically promoted minimal and tech-house music to the international crowd of clubbers in Beijing. Week by week the events grow bigger and a regular crowd of 200 to 300 people began turning up each time. "We just wanted to have our own party, choose our own music, and create our own atmosphere," Gaestadius said. "At that time we didn't usually see parties that we liked."

Baicai will be at Vics on July 26, and will be back at Alfa Pub on July 28, when Baicai will work with local DJ Mickey Zhang.

Modern love in subway

By Jackie Zhang

Saito Takuya, a young Japanese man, is looking for a Chinese girl with long hair at Jishuitan Subway Station. He met her last month and liked her at first sight. "I will keep on looking for her and won't give up until I meet her again," Saito Takuya said on Wednesday.

Saito has been in China for over ten years and is now working in Beijing. He met the long-haired girl on the subway on his way to visit his friend. "She is tall and has long black hair, the most beautiful hair in the world I think. I took pictures secretly and recorded a short video of her on the subway," Saito said.

"I followed her for hundreds of meters until she got out of the subway. Then, she got on a bus and left. I regret that I had not taken a picture of her face and asked for her telephone number." Saito said the girl was quiet and virtuous, "She prefers to stand rather than to sit, especially for old people and pregnant woman."

He thinks that the best and only way to find her is to post online. He wrote notices and posted pictures he took online, hoping that more people could help him. He also goes to Jishuitan Subway Station for a few hours everyday in hopes of meet-

ing the young woman again.

"The day after I met her, I started to come to the subway station and the bus station and wait for her. If I could meet with her again, I would tell her that I liked her at first sight. However, more than 20 days have passed and the girl has not shown up again. Sometimes I wonder if she has left Beijing. Sometimes I think I should give up. Some of my friends and netizens also laughed at me and told me it was impossible to find her. But people should take what I'm doing seriously. Anyway, I will keep on and try my best to find her."



Saito Takuya has been waiting for the girl for several hours every day at Jishuitan.

Photo provided by Saito Takuya

Government, EU cooperate to protect quality products

By Han Manman

The Chinese government and the European Union (EU) took a major step in cooperation to protect top-quality products when they exchanged applications for protection of geographical indications (GIs) on each of ten products from the EU and China. It is the first time the country and the EU have started an initiative to register a national group of GIs.

Aldo Longo, director from the agricultural directorate-general of the European Commission, met with deputy director Gen Tianzhuang of the Chinese Administration for Quality Super-

vision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) to exchange applications on Wednesday.

Promoting the understanding and development of GIs is a major international policy, Longo said during Wednesday's news conference. "In the European Union, GI is a powerful tool to promote local development in rural areas, while providing our consumers with guaranteed top quality, traditional products. Cooperation in this area with China means that we can ensure that registered Chinese names are not misused in Europe, and also that European designations

are protected in China," he said.

Longo said ten Chinese products to be registered in the EU: Dongshan White Asparagus, Guanxi Honey Pomelo, Jinxiang Garlic, Lixian Yam, Longjing Tea, Longkou Vermicelli, Shaanxi Apple, Zhenjiang Vinegar, Pinggu Big Peach and Yancheng Crayfish.

Ten EU products to be registered in China are West Country Farmhouse cheddar: White and Blue Stilton cheese, Scottish farmed salmon, Prosciutto di Parma, Grana Padano, Pruneau d'Agen - Pruneaux d'Agen mi-cuits, Roquefort, Comté, Sierra Mágina and Priego de Córdoba.

The exchange Wednesday concludes work which began in November 2006, and is based on a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the European Commission and AQSIQ in September 2005.

GIs are products that derive their characteristics and reputation from a local geographical area or characteristics, such as climate, soil type, landscape, water table or local production and processing. These local or regional characteristics, derived from the geographical specificity of the area, form the basis of their protection as an intellectual property.

Italian courses on art preservation now open

By Chu Meng

The Institute of the African and Eastern Studies of Italy began a new training program to teach interested locals about how artworks can be restored and preserved, Wednesday.

The program, jointly hosted by the Italian Embassy and the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, began with a workshop. Italian professors Giorgio Casacchia, Vittorio Casale and Maria Andaloro from the institute spoke on "The Renovation of Paintings in Tuscany, 1250-1500."

"This study focuses on several early Italian paintings of religious and civic importance that were physically transformed and reframed after their completion to accommodate cult practices," Giorgio said.

He said the program would introduce their experiences and techniques of revising the portraits and reframing Gothic altarpieces during the Renaissance, restoring wall-paintings and preserving living images.

Another professor Vittorio Casale's courses will focus on how

art history and conservation methods can be bridged to draw new conclusions about the form and meaning of art. "China's cultural relics, especially wall-paintings, are the most important study objectives of us. We need more Chinese professionals with renovation expertise to work and search with us," Casale said.

Professor Maria Andaloro explained the history of art revision study. She said some relics have been evaluated negatively because of their aesthetic impurity, an attitude that has encour-

aged removal of later modifications by restorers and conservators. By investigating the religious and social motivations underlying these renovations, the historical significance of such practices can be revealed. The compound images can be viewed more positively as "carriers of history."

Starting next week, interested people can ask the Italian Embassy for registration details. Aside from the Italian experts, some Chinese professors from Tsinghua University and Beijing University will give lectures.

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Embassy information

Canadian Embassy seeks Olympic Volunteers

The Canadian embassy has launched a recruit program called "C2C Olympic Volunteers Program," aimed at recruiting volunteers to assist with Canadian-organized activities in the 2008 Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Any Canadians in China or Chinese citizens who want to support Canada's presence and participate, are welcome to apply.

Nigerian Embassy

The Nigerian Immigration Service has opened online visa applications and payments. Applicants may apply and pay online at immigration.gov.ng. The Embassy ceased accepting cash payments for visas at the start of the month.

Job at the British Embassy

Position: Language teacher (Mandarin)

Open to: Qualified Chinese nationals

Spouses of British or foreign diplomats with a 'W' visa

Qualified UK passport holder

Deadline: 5pm, July 15

New hours at Turkish Embassy

Starting July 25, the Visa Section will be open for applications from 9:30am to 12:30pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Visa-related telephone inquiries will be answered from 3 to 5pm on working days. (Tel: 6532 2347)

Visas can be collected from the Visa Section between 5 to 5:30pm on working days.

Norwegian Embassy business visa

Starting July 20, the visa processing time will temporarily be changed to 15 working days due to an increased flow in applications.

(For more details, please visit the embassy's websites)

(By Han Manman)

Children to perform Shakespeare

By Gan Tian

The only English theater in town, Beijing Playhouse, will start its first children's theatre workshop next month. Anyone who is interested in it can sign up for a role in the play, starting today.

Participants, from the ages of six to 16, will perform Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with poetry, song, and dance. Student registration and open auditions are on Sunday, August 5 at 2pm. It is promised that everyone will be cast, either as aspiring actors, singers, dancers, or acrobats. Musicians are also welcome.

However, this time in the open audition, English proficiency is not necessary. Chris Verrill, Executive Director of Beijing Playhouse, suggests it is a good opportunity for both Chinese and foreign youngsters, to say, "Beijing Playhouse is a theater for all of the community. We produce shows for families. We also want to train the next generation of Beijing's English speaking actors, so we've launched a summer camp to teach them."

After signing up, they will learn acting skills, singing, dancing, and English from August 6 to 11. The spirit of Beijing Playhouse is to create a stage for both Chinese and foreigners. The native English-speaking teacher will have a bilingual assistant to help with the instruction. On the last day of the week the summer theatre camp will perform for parents and family.

Anyone who is interested can contact the email address at: performance@beijingplayhouse.com.

Coffee carnival to start your morning

By Han Manman

Next week will be a carnival for coffee fans in Beijing at the "China International Coffee Industry Exhibition," which is being held at the World Trade Center from July 19 to 21 and features a coffee championships.

One of the activities, an "International Coffee Festival" will take the concept of diffusing the international coffee from home and abroad, in the spirit of propelling the development of China's coffee market.

The exhibition will invite messengers from Ethiopia, as the origin of coffee, to show and explain the long history of coffee and its related stories.

Coffee professionals from Yunnan province, and representatives from Colombia, Uganda and Brazil will also be on hand to show off their own blends.

CCAB said the preliminary coffee competition areas extend to twelve from the initial eight. The contestants from the different competition areas will gather in Beijing to contend to be the champion, runner-up and third place finisher, then they will go to Japan to observe the world coffee brewer championships.

Lingyi Li, who is in charge of the exhibition, said the event has attracted international organizations including Special Coffee Association of Europe, Colombian Coffee Federation, Ethiopian Coffee Exporter's Association and many well known international coffee brands like Japan's UCC and Italy's ICF. It's also the first time for the officials of International Coffee Organization to come to Beijing.

Pedaling through Inner Mongolia



Participants ride to Inner Mongolia in 40-degree C. heat.

Xinhua Photo

By Huang Daohen

The best way to enjoy Inner Mongolia, other than on horseback as the locals mostly do, is by cycling through this remote and beautiful land on a mountain bike. The Genghis Khan MTB Festival in Inner Mongolia that took place from July 5 till 8 provided the opportunity.

The three-day adventure, covering 140 kilometers, crossed the vast and desolate grass lands of Inner Mongolia, tracing the prints of Genghis Khan, arguably the greatest emperor in history.

The three-day adventure

It all began midday last Friday. With almost 40 degrees C. and no shadows, it was no doubt that the heat was going to play a major factor in the opening stage of the race.

On the starting line stood 188 mountain bikers, 52 women and 136 men from over 20 countries, all ready to embark on a three day mountain bike adventure.

Martin Breuvar, a French rider working at an international company in Shanghai won the men's title with an overwhelming performance, beating his nearest competitor by over 20 minutes.

Amongst the women there was also a certain degree of domination, as Liu Ting from China was the fastest of them all.

Senior Olympic champion

One of the highlights of the event was the participation of Bernt Johansson, a retired Swedish road racer and also the event's champion in the 1976 Summer

Olympics in Montreal.

Bernt, 54, is now the technical director of Nordic Ways. The former champion surprised everyone by finishing fourth on the final day.

"I hope to promote the sport of cycling in China since it's rare to find people that are familiar with the event," Bernt said, "Cycling is such a healthy way that everyone should get involved."

This is Bernt's second time in China following his participation in the Huangshan MTB adventure last year.

For fun

Not all the participants that morning had taken the trip to Inner Mongolia, were aiming for first place. Many of the riders had come to experience its amazing nature on the back of a bike.

Felix Mathivet, 26, from Ireland is one of them. "Life has never before been so rich and colorful," he said. He arrived in China for the first time five months ago and happened to find out about the event in an advertisement he came across.

"I like cycling, but I don't really care about the result. I'm just here for fun," Mathivet said.

After the race was done and over with, it was time for all of the 200 participants to let the past few days sink in, and no one seemed disappointed.

From the winners to the participants who were there for nature and culture, all had been given more than they asked for.

Events

French Bastille Day party of Global proportions

To celebrate the French National Day, apart from regular parties held by the French Embassy or French restaurants and wine bars. The "Shaka Rock Band" lead by a sultry French vocalist will be performing everything from Franz Ferdinand to Noir Desir on the night.

Special guest dancers will raise the temperature of "The Gong" when they throw down their dance beats and Taipan Oriental Spacial be offering free massages at night.

Where: Yugongyishan, Gongti Beilu, back of the car park on the west of Minsheng Bank, Chaoyang

When: July 14

Cost: 30 yuan

Caponata Argamacho Trio Concert and Spanish Cocktails

In celebration of the first anniversary of the Instituto Cervantes de Pekin, come see this contemporary instrumental ensemble and enjoy Spanish wine and food provided after the concert.

Where: Conference Room, Instituto Cervantes, A 1 Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang

When: July 15, 7pm

Cost: to be determined

Tel: 5879 9666

Taichi experience

Watch master Wang and master Lang's amazing performance with interpreter's explains the culture of Taichi. Members from the Great Taichi Studio can interactively experience with those two masters.

Where: Teahouse in Ritan park, South about 300 meters to Friend Ship Store

When: July 15, 9am-12am

Cost: 200 yuan including lunch with the masters

Tel: 6793 6851

Folk songs and music on boat at Lotus Pond

The China Culture Club will organize an evening of music and romance hosted by musicians, who will serenade us by playing traditional Chinese instruments and also the vocal talents of accomplished folk singers. It will be held on wooden boats on a peaceful lake, which is surrounded by bamboo and willows and you can float leisurely amidst lotus and water lilies.

Where: Meet at the Chinese Culture Club for group transportation, China Culture Center, Kent Center, No 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: July 21, 7:30pm-11pm

Cost: 250 yuan, including boating, bus and drinks

Tel: 6432 9341 (Monday-Friday, 9am-6pm), 6432 1041 (weekday mornings and evenings; and weekend, rerouted to mobile phone)

(By He Jianwei)

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to:
weiyang@ynet.com

I frequently shop at the Silk Market, but recently I've realized that the prices they give for us foreigners are much higher than locals'. So, I would like to know how to get better deals?

First, you should know what you want to buy, and go to other stands to find out what a reasonable price is and to compare the qualities of the goods. Ask the vendor for a bottom line price. If the vendor replies: "I can't sell these things for any less, you should at least let me earn enough money to buy a pack of cigarettes!" in this situation you should not continue to deal with him and just walk away. After that, you may find that the vendor has changed his mind. He will probably shout at you with better offers, and the farther you walk the lower the price they will give you.

My own driver's license is invalid here in China, so I want to know how I can make it valid. How I can exchange it for a Chinese driver's license?

First, applicants should have lived abroad for at least six months, and the driver's license must not be expired. Secondly, pick up the form for motor vehicle licenses from the district or county's Transportation Information Department. Thirdly, you must take a physical examination, and hand over your passport and Beijing residence identification card or temporary certificate of residence to be checked. Then the staff will translate your driver's license into Chinese and keep a duplicate. Last but not least, after passing the written and road driving exams, you can receive your brand-new Chinese driver's license.

I have been in Beijing for almost a year and I want to establish an English training school. Who can help me get started?

There is a company in Beijing that can help foreigners deal with any problems that may arise.

The address: Rm.315F FESCO Beijing, No.14 Chaoyangmen Nandajie Chaoyang District Beijing 100020, China
Tel: 8563 6833 8561 6663 8561 6060

Fax: 8562 8168
E-MAIL: Chaoyangservice@fesco.com.cn

How do I get a taxi when it's raining?

Call 114 for any taxi company's phone number, and then call the taxi company to send a cab to pick you up. Generally speaking, it is difficult to hail the taxi in the rain because an increasing number of people who used to take the subways or buses will like to hail a cab.

(By Liu Ao and Li Meng)



Zvika Frank teaches dance therapy in Shantou.

Photo provided by Inspirees International

Dance therapy helps to learn more about yourself

By Jackie Zhang

Dance therapy may be familiar and popular in most Western countries; however, few Chinese people know what it is. Starting September, a series of dance therapy courses will be provided in Beijing.

Inspirees International, a Dutch company, focused on the cultural and innovative educational programs between China and Europe, invited Zvika Frank, an experienced Dutch dance therapist, and held its first workshop in Beijing in May.

"After the success of the first dance therapy workshop, we wanted to bring dance therapy closer to the public in China so that more people can benefit from it," Zvika Frank said.

There are 27 courses in total that are going to be provided. The first two in September are ORI1, an experience course for people who know nothing about dance therapy, and IND3, which helps people reduce pressure and help manage their emotions.

These courses are designed especially for different targeted groups with different goals, even though all dance therapy helps to enhance the consciousness of people's body and improve the integration of the body and mind. The length and intensity of the course also varies.

"For example, ORI courses are intended for people who want to experience dance therapy. We aim to wake up the 'sleeping' body and

mind within two to three days," Frank said.

All the courses are open for everyone who wants to know and experience the power of dance therapy. PRO courses are mainly for professionals working in health/mental care fields including psychologists, psychiatrists, and physical therapists, just to name a few. An important note for people following PRO courses is that they must be very aware of their own body.

The courses are open for both Chinese and foreigners as the language barrier is less for non-verbal therapy as dance therapy. A course will accept around 15-30 students.

"The person should begin dance therapy with an open mind

and a willingness to participate so he or she can get the most out of it. Otherwise, the free child can never be freed," Frank said.

Registration

Tel: 88550227 or email: info@inspirees.com before July 30

ORI1 course

When: August 31 to September 2

Where: CSI Bally Total Fitness Club

Fee: 2,250 yuan/three days per person

IND3 course

When: September 7 to 9

Where: CSI Bally Total Fitness Club

Price: 3,000 yuan/three days per person

Support 'Silk Road' by walking on it

By Han Manman

The third stop of the "Nissan Ten-year Walk on Ancient Silk Road Walking Convention" will start from August 19 to support the application for adding the ancient Silk Road to UNESCO's world cultural heritage list, the China Volkssport Association (CVA) announced on Tuesday.

The convention from August 10 to 26 will begin in Yinchuan via Guyuan, Huining and will finish in Lanzhou.

A donation plan for underfunded elementary school will also be implemented during the convention, including setting up Nissan libraries and donating books to the students.

The 2,000-year-old Silk Road was a trade route linking Asia and Europe. It extended from Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, to Europe via south and central Asian countries. It was 7,000 kilometers long, more than half of which is in China.

For anyone who wants to donate old books or to participate in the event, please call 010-8489 6319/20/21 or log on the website: chinawalking.net.cn for more information.

Beijing Zoo opens night camp

By Liu Ao / Li Meng

From this month to September you will have the chance to spend the night at the Beijing Zoo.

In order to enhance ecological awareness, especially among young people, the Beijing Zoo has started a summer camp called "Beijing Zoo 2007 - love animals and protect the environment." This program, directed by professionals in animal husbandry, science, painting and photography, allows visitors to explore the zoo's diverse wildlife, including being able to learn to sketch from nature and how to take photographs.

In this summer camp, you can observe the animals closely, enjoy the pleasures of camping, and try your hand at creating ancient painted pottery.

You might stay overnight at the zoo with other participants, and record the nocturnal life of the animals, such as foxes, raccoons and most amphibians. The professional classes will give you a totally different feeling for nature, and the chance to show off your talents in a number of competitions.



A Beijing Zoo staff member feeds the birds.

CFP Photo

The camp has no age limits. Each session starts at midnight and lasts to noon. Each session plans to enroll 30 people, with three different kinds of classes provided. Each photography, art and writing class is open to 10 people; the first will run the whole 24 hours and the last two will be given from 5:30 to 6:30. You must register three days in advance and the fee is 150 yuan per person, including teaching materials, insurance and accommodations. The first

session begins this weekend, but is already booked.

You should be a nice person, which means loving and caring animals, be in good health and be good at getting along with others.

Bring one backpack and wear your own clothes; follow the rules; bring your own toiletries and umbrella, raincoat or other rain gear; and you should take care of your own things.

Tel: Zhou Guijie, 6839 0249



You Had Better Dance



Shared Journey



Xin Xiang



Whisper of Love



You Had Better Dance
Photos by Pang Liping



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h of Hong Kong's contemporary dance

ur: Whisper of Love

Ong Yong Lock and his
Unlock Dancing Plaza

A male dancer came down from the stage with his mouth bleeding and asking for the audiences' help as he left three female dancers with each other on the stage. It was the climax scene from the performance made by the Unlock Dancing Plaza – artistic director, choreographer and dancer – as a dance or a dance drama. He invited Andy Ng to write the script for the performance. "Even though things change, you can never change what I feel in my heart," the three female dancers began their dialogues about the love they believed in.

Even in the styles of music and dance, he tried to incorporate everything into the performance, from jazz to hip-hop to rhythmic gymnastics. Ong's dance also included Sean Paul's hit song Temperature, Gounod's Romeo and Juliet and Lou Reed's Street Hassle. Reggae to the opera, from the classic to the underground, the performance gives you a rollercoaster of musical influences.

I met Ong in the dressing room after his performance. As a choreographer, Ong is good at digging out the dancers' individual potential. Among the three female dancers, Lim Weiwei is a rhythmic gymnast, Leung Hiutuen is a dramatic actor and Flora Hon is a Jazz teacher.

When Ong cooperated with the artists and dancers, he found they had their unique talents, so he tried to take advantage of their specialties. "Leung Hiutuen, as a drama actor, worried about her dance, so we played games on the first day. The inspiration for *Whisper of Love* is Stéphane Mallarmé's poem 'The Afternoon of the Faun.' At first, he wanted to adopt the poem as the prelude to the dance, but he didn't know how to start his creation with the poem. 'So I had to give up the poem and start creating some fragments for my dance,' he said.

"When we worried about how to make it with some integrity, we picked up the poem again and found that it was what I wanted, especially the stanza 'Was it a dream I loved?'" he said.

Established by Ong and Chau Kam Ngai in 2002, Unlock Dancing Plaza is a modern dance company with great potential and a unique style. The innovative company explores observations from life with refinement and depth, and is active in creating through collaborations with artists of different media.

Unlock Dancing Plaza works to liberate dance from the boundaries of the stage, bringing dance into our lives. Its works emphasize openness and acceptance, stresses the exchange between the audience and the performers, and create a new and tailored experience of modern dance viewing. The company also actively organizes projects that promote youth dance, cultivate the next generation of performance artists, and develop Hong Kong into a hub of youth dancing in Asia.

I hurt: You Had Better Dance

Yeung Wai-mei and her
why_me_dance



Yeung Wai-mei, a choreographer and freelance dancer, brought two performances to the capital: Pro 8.0 and You Had Better Dance.

The music in *You Had Better Dance* is from John Lennon and the Beatles, as Yeung listened to Lennon's song "Beautiful Boy" during her vacation in Thailand. "The tender and sweet voice was filled with love for his son, yet, at the same time, it revealed the hidden reality of a cruel world. I stood, frozen in the middle of the room," she said. And as more than 300 hundred people in the audience sang the Paul McCartney classic "Hey Jude" together, it's hard for anyone not to get a little emotional.

In her second performance, Yeung made a video about the etymological meaning about You, Had, Better and Dance. "It's like a dictionary. When I look up the meanings of you, had, better and dance in the dictionary, it sounds interesting that different people have their different understanding of the words. It's the same as different people having a different understanding of dance," she said.

She believes that humans can easily get messages across when they are relaxed. The Beatles song also made her think long and hard about her life as a dancer. "I couldn't help but ask myself stupid questions, like, who am I and what am I doing here? It was twenty years ago when I first stepped into the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, and crashed to the dance floor. I chose this title because I feel like I am always at the edge of not being at the top," she said.

Although I can't speak Cantonese, I could recognize the similarity between the pronunciation of her name Wai-mei and the name of her group Why Me.

"I have no English name. When I studied at the University of Iowa, I introduced my Chinese name to my classmates. Some of them thought it sounded like 'Why me,' so I chose it as the name of my group," she said.

It seems that Yeung was asking herself the question, "Why do I dance?" She says that she is always seeking the answer but she just hadn't gotten it yet. "I'm a dynamic person and I would like to keep on proposing questions. Maybe being dynamic is a lot like Hong Kong's spirit," she said.

By He Jianwei

Willy Tsao, Artistic Director of City Contemporary Dance Company, has brought four performances from July 3 to 10 at the Beijing Orient Pioneer Theatre, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Hong Kong's return to Chinese sovereignty.

We followed up three contemporary dance companies from Hong Kong. The *Whisper of Love* is a dance that helps you feel what love is all about, *You Had Better Dance* attempts to reveal the hidden reality of a cruel, cruel world, and the dance of Xin Xiang, shows the peace and the freshness in the hectic modern city.

I calm: Xin Xiang



Chow Pewan and her
Passover Dance Company

Recently, there was a movie in Hong Kong that explored the helplessness and fear of people in big cities who have to deal with stress and pressure. Pewan Chow hopes that this dance can bring the audience a bit of freshness.

The movement of dance in Chow's performance was inspired by Wu Guanzhong's ink and wash paintings, but the original idea is not from him. She created and arranged the dance in Britain back in 2003. It is also an important year for Hong Kong because of the SARS epidemic.

"Although I lived in Britain, my mind was in Hong Kong. I decided to create a work to reflect how precious life is," she said.

China has a lot of poetry and paintings that reflect the philosophy of life. Chow started to search for what their real meanings in Chinese poetry and paintings. "When I saw Wu's works, I saw a kind of vitality in his pieces, so I picked up three examples from Wu as a blueprint for my performance," she said.

Painting is a kind of static art, while dance is a dynamic one. The combination between the two is a challenge to her. "As a good painting, it has its vitality. I tried to make the audience feel the poetic and flavor of painting through our dance by using the setting of a painting," she said.

Established in 1993 by two dance-enthusiastic Christians, Passover Dance Company is a non-profit organization with a mission of promoting dance, performing arts, cultural and entertaining activities, and provides people with more opportunities to encounter, appreciate and understand the art of dance.

Diana – biography of the people's princess

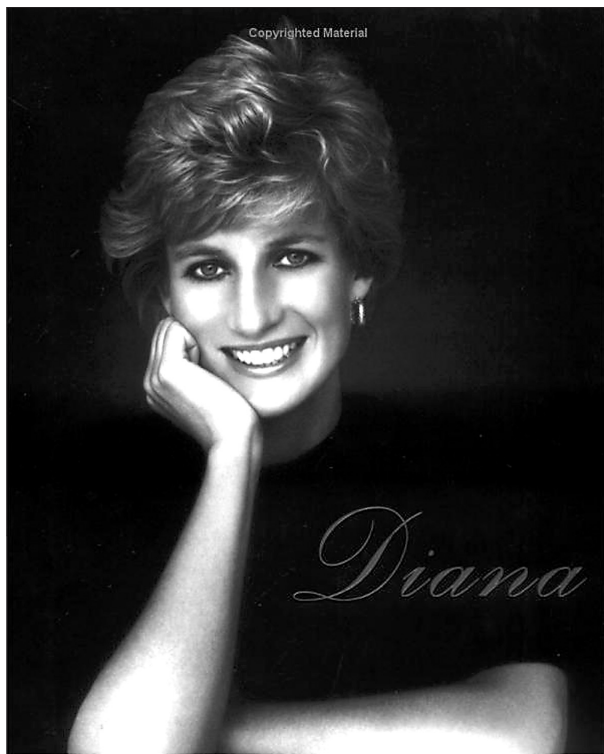
By Dianna Bai

Princess Diana was never a stranger to the headlines. Her unhappy marriage with Prince Charles and rumored love affairs dotted British tabloid covers, her humanitarian work in AIDS education caught the attention of world leaders and conspiracy theories surrounding her death have circulated since August 31, 1997.

Today, nearly ten years after her fatal car accident, Diana admirers still make the pilgrimage to Kensington Palace – her last place of residence – leaving flowers for “the people's princess.”

The paperback edition of *Diana* (464pp, Viking, July 5, 2007, £7.99) by celebrity biographer Sarah Bradford, graced bookshelves just in time for the tenth anniversary of the subject's death. Oxford-educated historian Bradford, known for New York Times bestsellers *America's Queen: The Life of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis* and *Elizabeth: A Biography of Her Majesty the Queen*, interviewed 300 courtiers and friends to produce this portrait of England's famous modern monarch.

Bradford examines Diana's relationships with her friends, lovers, in-laws and uncommitted husband, as well as her proactive role as an ador-



ing mother and national icon. With Diana, Bradford sought to debunk the critical character sketch put forth by Diana's detractors: the Princess of Wales a “borderline personality” plagued by congenital psychological problems.

The author, who has royal connections herself as the official Viscountess Bangor, drew her inspiration for the book

from a remark by Diana's longtime friend Carolyn Bartholomew, who had once told her that Diana “is not a happy person now, but once she was.”

“I wanted to find out how it was that a young, unsophisticated girl, only just twenty when she married the heir to the British throne, could have become the worldwide celebrity she was when she died – witnessed by

the outpouring of grief at her death and the fact that she is still remembered 10 years later,” Bradford said.

For Diana-ophiles and history buffs, Diana offers insider accounts and the author's psychological insights into an iconic woman of the twentieth century. Despite Diana's neediness, depression and troubled search for identity, Bradford does not paint her as a victim. Instead, she argues Diana pulled herself together – enough at least to set new standards of compassion for modern British royals.

Images of the princess grasping the hands of an HIV-infected patient and embracing a woman in a Sarajevo cemetery set a precedent for the modern monarchy, once known for its aloofness.

“I think that everyone can relate to the story told in this book, even if the Chinese people find the workings of the British Royal Family strange – and so do a lot of the British people!” Bradford said. “Many of us have had unhappy relationships as Diana did in her marriage. I think that it is inspiring how she managed to turn her life around and make herself into a successful modern woman with something to offer the world, and at the same time to be an excellent mother whose legacy is demonstrated by the lives and personalities of Princes William and Harry.”

Final Harry Potter lands in town

By Han Manman

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows (US edition 218 yuan; UK edition 208 yuan), the seventh and final book in the best selling series by J K Rowling, is scheduled for release on July 21 in the foreign language bookstore of China National Publications Import and Export Corporation (CNPIEC).

Liang Jianrui, vice president of CNPIEC, said Potter's arrival has been under strict protection to ensure nothing is let out before the worldwide launch day.

The reopening ceremony of the foreign languages bookstore on the second floor of CNPIEC mansion will coincide with Potter's arrival, Liang said. The new bookstore will cover imported original edition foreign language books, CDs and domestically published foreign language books.

A masquerade for Potter fans arranged over the “I love Harry Potter” website will be held the same evening.

Cover stories about China

By Ammie Wei

History is full of temptation: the more you learn, the more you feel ignorant and superficial. Many complicated historical scenes full of rich detail are simplified and turned boring in textbooks. Even our knowledge of the past two hundred years is muddled.

For anyone who is interested in Chinese history, especially how the two leading parties, the Communist Party and Nationalist Party, fought to liberate China in 1923 to 1946, the newly-released *Fengmian Zhongguo* (Cover Stories of China, Dongfang Publishing House, 38 yuan) is an interesting read.

Time's China-related cover stories from 1923 to 1946 are the foundation of the book, which retells China's successes and failures, and analyzes the country's political environment and people in the spotlight: Chiang Kai-shek, Wu Peifu, Feng Yuxiang, Wang Jingwei, Fu Yi, Soong May-ling, Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai.

The writer, Li Hui, 51, is a former editor in the art and literary department of the

People's Daily. In 1997, his collection of short essays won him the Lu Xun prize, one of the leading literary awards in China. His series of Cover Stories of China, which first ran as a column in a national magazine for two years, also won the award for best writing in 2006.

The idea to compile the book came by accident. “In July 2001, I was visiting the National Library in Washington DC. I borrowed two years of Time magazine from 1927 and 1943, which had two Chinese people on two issues of the Times' covers: Chiang Kai-shek and Soong May-ling, his wife. Suddenly, I was curious: how many Chinese people have made the cover of Time from 1923 to the end of the last century.”

Using the book *The Face of History: TIME Magazine Covers 1923-1994* as a guide, Li found that many famous Chinese people made the cover: Mao Zedong, Chiang Kai-shek, Deng Xiaoping and Zhou Enlai led the race for most appearances, and others graced the cover only once. There were also



some foreign faces with connections to China.

In the book, Li translated and quoted the original reports from Time, and combined them with related people's memories and historical records to described how everything happened.

“I tried to included my visits to related places in the book and narrate the stories with reality, historical records and emotional expression. I hope such a style can draw interest in that era of history.”

Timezone 8 Recommendations

Timezone 8 Limited is a Hong Kong-based publisher, distributor and retailer of contemporary art, architecture, photography and design books.

Frida Kahlo

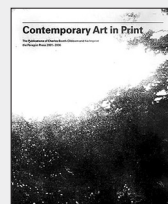
By Helga Prignitz-Poda
246pp, Schirmer/Mosel,
780 yuan



The book zooms right into reality, and it does so in a new and unusual way: presenting Frida Kahlo's paintings in a general view and in selected details, it reveals the wealth of stories and creatures hidden in her self-portraits; it makes tangible the life-long physical and spiritual pain endured by the artist; and it illustrates painterly skills and techniques reminiscent of old European masters.

David Adjaye: Houses

By Peter Allison
256pp, Thames & Hudson,
285 yuan

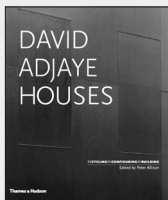


David Adjaye, one of the most exciting and accomplished young architects to emerge on the international scene in years, concentrates on materials and issues of place and identity. A combination of sheer inventiveness, creative clients, and modest budgets has produced a refined and comprehensive body of design – unusual in such a young practitioner.

Contemporary Art in Print

By Charles Booth-Clibborn, Etienne Lullin, Florian Simm

344pp, Booth-Clibborn Editions, 750 yuan



The range of artists printmaker Charles Booth-Clibborn has worked with stretches across generations, from Alan Davie and the late Terry Frost to Damien Hirst and Marc Quinn to Gillian Carnegie and George Shaw. The twenty-eight projects by eighteen artists presented in this volume provide an overview of the British art scene at the beginning of the 21st century. Each project is fully illustrated in color in chronological order and accompanied by text, mainly based on interviews with the artists.

(By He Jianwei)

Ever wished you could sing like Mariah Carey or Vitas, who have perfect control over the whistle register range? It is possible! Take a deep breath and get ready, and make sure there is no fine crystal nearby.

Hitting glass-shatteringly high notes

Vitas's voice may still linger in music enthusiasts' minds. The Russian singer made a tremendous splash last month in the capital with his remarkable high-pitched notes, named as *haitunyin*, or "dolphin pitch," in Chinese. Control over the extremely high-pitched notes won one of the most successful Super Girls contestants the nickname "dolphin princess."

The ability to control notes at that level has become a goal, especially for talent show contestants. Dolphins have too long claimed an undeserved monopoly over this pitch. In English, *haitunyin* has nothing to do with dolphins and is called whistle register.

What is it?

Whistle register is a range few people sing in unless they are named "Mariah Carey." However, it is part of the normal vocal range that most of us possess.

Whistle register, also called "flageolet register," is the highest register of human voice. The term is so named because the timbre of these notes is similar to that of a

whistle.

Chinese musicians prefer to call it "dolphin pitch," because it reminds them of the high-pitch sea mammal.

When a singer first hits this register it seems to come out of nowhere. It feels detached from the throat and out of the singer's control.

Mariah is one of the most well-known whistle register masters in the pop arena. Minnie Riperton, Christina Aguilera, Sarah Brightman, Adam Lopez, Brett Manning, Shanice Wilson and Deniece Williams are other well-known whistle register singers.

Where does it come from?

Some people believe vocal ability is purely genetic, but those who view the voice as an intricate network of muscles disagree. It is notable that many singers are the youngest child in their families, suggesting a trend based on development rather than heredity. Riperton, Carey, Wilson, Patti LaBelle and Tamar Braxton were all youngest children.

Although not a whistle register singer, Kevon Edmonds, "Babyface" Edmonds's youngest brother, has the highest range of all the brothers. Others say that the ability is a mixture of genetics and practice.

How to produce it?

To produce a whistle register tone, the mouth needs

to be barely open, but with a large opening at the back of the throat. Next, relax the lips, jaw and tongue. The tongue should be in a resting position by the lower front teeth. Your cheeks should stay loose, and the corners of the mouth should not spread. Using a light air flow, try a free "hum" or a sound like "uh" or "ooh" and glide down by a fifth.

The sound seems to come from nothing – it just happens. It may a different pitch than you intended. You will feel as if you had little or nothing to do with the sound you made. It should sound light and free, and be a soft sound, even a gentle squeak. Oren Brown, a voice therapist, described it as sounding like a different voice. The note really should "pop out" by itself, or it's not a true whistle register note. You can't force or push out the notes; they should not be a strain to produce.

It can take years to develop this register, but our goal is just to feel relaxation and an increase in vocal freedom. Only practice this register for five minutes per day. Afterwards, try singing in a normal voice – you might find it surprisingly easier! Use of this upper register can also increase the strength of low notes due to the necessary stretching of the vocal tract.

Hit songs with whistle-register notes

1. Without You (Mariah Carey)
2. Bliss (Mariah Carey)
3. All in Your Mind (Mariah Carey)
4. We Belong Together (Mariah Carey)
5. Emotions (Mariah Carey)
6. Loving You (Minnie Riperton)
7. The Phantom of the Opera (Sarah Brightman)
8. Opera 2 (Bumac Vitas)
9. Oh Happy Day, (Ryan Toby)
10. Le Droit A L Erreur (Amel Bent)

(By Jiang Xubo)



Bumac Vitas, a Russian singer



Zhang Liangying, one of the Super Girls in 2005

CFP Photo

Made in Hong Kong, sold here

Hong Kong Street Culture

Subcrew:

Hong Kong Dog Bite Dog (2006) film actor and rapper in LMF, Sam Lee, is even better known as HK's leading fashion icon. Lee's self-designed clothing-line "Subcrew" is now available in Beijing.

Launched in summer 2002, Subcrew blends American hip-hop fashion with HK street fashion to mix a new solution of east and west.

"Subcrew is short for 'Submarine Crew'; it's a symbol of our teamwork," Lee said. "Like armies that work underwater, we keep a low profile. We don't work by rules set in the city, and we're not afraid to challenge taboos."

Lee's rebellious and outspoken persona are expressed in the foul-language T-shirts in this year's Summer Collection.

Nonetheless, Subcrew's "bad-boy" look is why it remains a teen favorite here and in HK. "Teenagers from other provinces come all the way here to buy Subcrew," Greet store owner Wu Jing, one of the few outlets in Beijing that import Subcrew, said.

Available: Greet, Shop 9312-F2, 9 Jianwai Soho, 39 Dongsanhuan Zhonglu, Chaoyang

Tel: 5900 3506

Website: greetyo.com

By Bessie Ng

This month marks the tenth anniversary of Hong Kong's (HK) return to China. As ambassadors of the capital city, *Beijing Today* we explore the HK brands and goods available locally!



**Subcrew Graphic
07 Summer T-shirt
Price: 320 yuan**



**Black Water-Proof
Shoulder Gear Bag
Price: 880 yuan**



**SiLLY
THING Logo
T-shirt
Price:
580 yuan**



"SiLLY THING"

SiLLY THING is a Hong Kong record label like no other. Through impressive collaborative efforts with big names such as "A Bathing Ape," "Comme des Garçons" and "Undercover," SiLLY THING is the latest craze growing in Asia.

SiLLY THING's recent works – including fashion magazines "Milk" and "Tea," and the lifestyle book "Cream" – have earned him a reputation as the new trend setter.

From his production headquarters in Tokyo, TK explains that although SiLLY THING's collaboration series will continue, he is happy to "play it small" and has no plans to expand to a full clothing line.

"We don't really have any plans to go overseas, as our production is really limited. We are only making 40-50 pieces for each design. So it is kind of impossible for any of SiLLY THING's products to be sold outside HK," he said.

But thanks to the importing business, Beijing fashion freaks can grab the latest from local retailers in SOHO, Chaoyang district – without TK knowing, of course.

Available: MiuKK, Shop 9312-F2, 9 Jianwai Soho, 39 Dongsanhuan Zhonglu, Chaoyang

Tel: 136 0103 0610

Continued on Page 17 ...

Photos by Li Shaolin

Hong Kong Miscellanies @ Xi Dan 77th Street

Xidan is a near replica of Causeway Bay, HK's shopping heaven! Don't be surprised to see a few "made in Hong Kong" goodies on sale at Xidan's most hip underground shopping mall, The 77th Street.

Bruce Lee Figurine

Jackie Chan wasn't the first to make it to Hollywood, and neither was Jet Li. For those martial arts wannabes out there, who wouldn't know Hong Kong Kung Fu Legend Bruce Lee? Using Lee's most memorable appearance in classic Kung Fu film *Fists of Fury* (the *Chinese Connection* in the US), miniature-Lee is presented bare-chested while holding his signature weapon, the Japanese nunchaku, and ready to attack!

Price: 48 yuan

Available: Shop B2-C-71, Xidan Cultural Plaza, 180 Xidan Bei Dajie, Xicheng
Tel: 5869 9826

Hong Kong Disney Products: Mickey & Friends X Chinese Legend Monkey King

Sorry Beijingers, but HK is still the only part of the country with a Disney Land, so cross-over between Disney collectibles and Chinese fables are restricted to HK's bounds: *Mulan* doesn't count. The store owner said the one in this picture is the last one!

Price: 280 yuan per set

Available: Shop B2-A-10, Xidan Cultural Plaza, 180 Xidan Beidajie, Xicheng
Tel: 132 4141 5557

Jerk it!

What's better than pinching your way through packets of beef jerky and dried squid during the deadline rush? Seasoned and dried strips of beef and squid remain the HK office lady's choice snack. Strong in taste, jerky strips are tough and chewy: they're the only form of beef and squid that never expires.

Price: 10 yuan

Available: Shop B3-C-36, Xidan Cultural Plaza, 180 Xidan Bei Dajie, Xicheng
Tel: 6603 3660

... continued from Page 16

Bruce Lee Figurine



Seasoned and dried strips of beef and squid

Hong Kong Disney Products



Hong Kong Designer 'Spotlight': Pacino Wan

Along with world-class designers Vivienne Tam, Rane K and Barney Cheng, whose chronicles all started back in HK, Pacino Wan is no exception.

His Story

A graduate of Hong Kong Polytechnic University in 1987, Wan established his own label in 1992. Under PACINO WAN, he specializes in sub-labels including TUX, a party-dress line, and Ai, a matching parent-child clothing line.

Fond of laughter and little children, Wan certainly captures these elements in his style: big and bold graphics printed on bright tropical colors. Like the fairy-god-mother in *Cinderella*, Wan is a deft hand at using patterns – rather than wand – to tell stories, and brings a touch of naivety to his collections.

1997: A Year to Remember

One of Wan's works that he still looks back on with pride is his haute couture collection "Say Goodbye to the Queen," designed then as a celebration of HK's 1997 return.

Using the handover as a source of inspiration, Wan designed a series of state-of-the-art pieces. The highlight of the collection, a cocktail dress composed of a collage of English flags, is on exhibition at the Australian Powerhouse Museum.

TUX haute couture: Ultramodern Party Dresses

It only takes a few seconds in Pacino Wan to notice a fragile-looking puffy dress made of paper and gauze hanging on the wall. Before you have time to wonder if its a wall decoration, the salesmen will tell you it costs 7,000 yuan and is part of Pacino Wan's TUX 06 Autumn-Winter Collection. Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the Pacino Wan's Miraculous World of Fashion, where the impossible is made ... and worn.

Pacino Wan's TUX party dress line is characterized by unusual, flamboyant and over-the-top designs made using unconventional textiles. Described as styles of "futurism," TUX dresses are ideal for party-goers who enjoy experimenting with fashion.

Pacino Wan 07 Summer Collection: 'Alice in My Wonderland'

Since the June display of the Pacino Wan 07 S/S Collection "Alice in My Wonderland," Alice in Wonderland characters have been the stars of this season's line.

Available: Pacino Wan, Shop 0903, 9 Jianwai Soho, 39 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang

Tel: 5869 9826


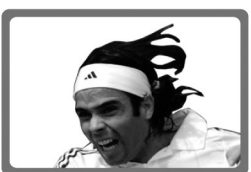



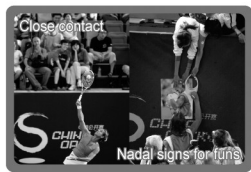
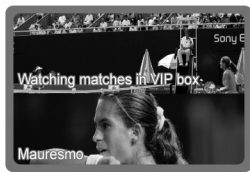


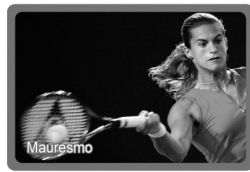



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Always remember, feet first

By Han Manman

Feet are generally either beautiful or ugly and rarely in between. When it's cold out, you never really have to think about whose feet fall into which category. But as summertime comes, it's a foot fest. We want our feet to look good, feel good and smell good. No one wants bad smelling feet with dry cracked heels, calluses, or ugly fungal infected toenails.

Fortunately, all it takes to have beautiful feet is a little care and attention. Beauty salon sales in the summer naturally see an increase as people seek out pedicures for their ugly feet.

"If you want your feet to look and feel good in summer sandals and strappy shoes, it's important to pay attention to foot and toenail care now," beautician Chen Jiao from Bestcare beauty salon said.

Common foot problems

Athlete's foot, is the most common foot disease, it is a fungal infection of the skin and the nails and is usually found on the skin between the toes. But if and when the infection spreads to the toenails, they can become thick and distorted.

Chen said it is common to catch athlete's foot from other people who have it by walking on floors that are moist or wet, particularly in gyms and locker rooms. It is also much more common in people who tend to have moist feet. Another way it can be spread, is by sharing other people's shoes or personal items, such as towels.

"What you should do is bathe your feet at least once a day with soap and warm water. Dry thoroughly after bathing and keep your feet dry. Change your socks frequently and buy ones that absorb moisture, such as cotton and wool. Expose your feet to the air for short periods of time throughout the day. Wear sandals with open toes whenever possible," Chen said.

Fungal and bacterial conditions, occur because our feet spend a lot of time in shoes – a warm, dark, and humid environment that is perfect for fungus to grow. Fungal and bacterial conditions can cause dry skin, redness, blisters, itching and peeling. If not treated right away, an infection may be hard to cure, and if not treated properly, the infection may reoccur. To prevent infections, keep your feet – especially the area between your toes – clean and dry. Change your shoes and socks or stockings often to help keep your feet dry. Try using foot powder daily. If the conditions does not improve within two weeks, call your doctor.

Corns and calluses are caused by friction and pressure when the bony parts of your feet rub against your shoes. Sometimes wearing shoes that fit better or using special pads solves the problem. Treating corns and calluses

yourself may be harmful, especially if you have diabetes or poor circulation. Over-the-counter medicine often contains acids that destroy the tissue, but still do not treat the cause. They sometimes, however, can reduce the need for surgery, but check with your doctor before using them.

Warts are skin growths caused by viruses. They are sometimes painful and, if untreated, may spread. Since over-the-counter products rarely cure warts, see your doctor. A doctor can apply medicines, burn or freeze the wart off or remove the wart off with surgery.

Bunions develop when the joints in your big toe no longer fit together as they should and become swollen and tender. Bunions tend to run in families. If a bunion is not severe, wearing shoes cut wide at the instep and toes, taping the foot or wearing pads that cushion the bunion may

help the pain. Other treatments include physical therapy and wearing orthopedic devices or shoe inserts. A doctor can also prescribe anti-inflammatory drugs and cortisone injections for pain. Sometimes surgery is needed to relieve the pressure and repair the joint.

Ingrown toenails occur when a piece of the nail breaks the skin, which can happen if you don't cut your nails properly. Ingrown toenails are very common in the large toe. A doctor can remove the part of the nail that is cutting into the skin, which allows the area to heal. Ingrown toenails can often be avoided by cutting the toenail straight across and level with the top of the toe.

Chen said having good hygiene protects feet from common foot related troubles. Not cutting nails properly can often allow for the nail to break the skin, causing an ingrown nail. When cutting your nails, it's important not to cut them too short and straight across.



CFP Photos

Tips from an expert

1. As a client, you are encouraged to ask how the instruments are cleaned and if they are changed after each client to ensure you are not exposed to bacteria.
2. Although many people enjoy feeling the air between their toes while wearing flip-flops and sandals, it's important to also make sure that the footwear you choose has a durable sole and proper support. Leather shoes are preferred for daily wear.
3. Avoid going barefoot even when you go to a swimming pool. Wear sandals, shoes or aqua shoes around the pool, on the beach and especially in the locker room. If you walk barefoot on warm wet floors in the locker room, you can easily pick up a fungal nail infection.
4. Be sure to wear socks when you wear sneakers. Socks should be made from acrylic fiber or 100 percent cotton. You can also sprinkle baby powder on your feet.

Shower a day

A few minutes of a day in the shower will take care of dry skin and cracked heels, Chen said. Keep a small sturdy brush, preferably with pumice or another abrasive on the reverse side, in the shower.

When you get to your feet, coat the brush with soap and scrub your feet, then use the scratchy side to saw away at any rough spots. Rinse well, including the brush, and dry. Then rub on some cream or lotion. A fancy foot cream isn't even necessary. Just find something you like to use. In just under three minutes, both your feet will feel smooth and ready to take on the beach.

All that's left are your toenails, and you can easily maintain them on a

weekly basis. After you get out of the shower and your nails are still soft, gently push back the cuticle with a cotton-wrapped orange stick, clip the nails short, while being careful not to overly round the corners, clean under the nail with a cotton swab, then file, file and file some more. A buff and clear polish is enough of a finish, but colored polish looks great too. There. You're done, with minimal effort, and your feet are looking beautiful. Go and reward yourself with a new pair of sexy sandals.

White water adventure

During the hot summer months, white water rafting is one of the more exciting extreme sports that include a chance to cool off in the water. The sport originates from rafts used in ancient China, and those used by the Eskimos. Both domestically and abroad, there are lots of interesting rivers to raft.

Nanxi River, Yunnan

The rafting route along the Nanxi River in Honghe Hani & Yi Autonomous Prefecture in Yunnan Province is notable for its location along the China-Vietnam border.

The river runs 32 kilometers, eight of which follows the border. Starting from Niulang Beach, raft down along the river to go through 40 rapids, six dangerous shallows and disembark at Zhongyue Bridge.

The Nanxi River flows quickly and is lined by semitropical forests. Mountains stretch beyond the forests. The river is incredibly variable: wide at times and narrow at others, and winding at time and straight at others. Visitors should wear life preservers for safety. At slow points, rafters can jump out and swim a bit, or stop off at beaches to relax and take pictures.

Along the boundaries, the left side of

Nanxi River is Vietnam and the right side is the frontier station of China. The drifting can not only give you exciting and adventurous experience, but also allow you to see people's work and life in Vietnam.

Where: Hekou Yao Autonomous County, Honghe Hani & Yi Autonomous Prefecture, Yunnan Province

Admission: 120 yuan per person

Tel: 0873-298 9872

Getting there: First, go to Kunming, capital of Yunnan. There are buses to Hekou at the stations near the Kunming Railway Station.



Guihe River, Beijing

The Guihe River is 15-kilometers long and averages only 1.5 meters deep. The steepest riptide drop is one meter. You can choose different sections of the river as time and challenge allow.

It is said to be the Asian version of the Rhine River – free of pollution and human damage. The river has around 100 big and small twists along its course. There are several scenic points along the riverside, like the lovers' island and magpie forest.

It takes around two hours to make an eight-kilometer journey. Rafts can carry four to six people at a time. No guide is provided, so visitors have to operate the rafts on their own.

The outset is smooth, and the water flows slowly. You can see colorful butterflies and dragonflies in the trees and flowers along the bank.

But don't expect to stay dry, because there are several small falls along this course. Keep valuables like cameras

in plastic bags since water often splashes into the raft.

Where: Chengdong rafting station, Yanqing District, Beijing

Admission: 102 yuan per person

Tel: 6918 9876

Getting there: Take the No 919 bus at Deshengmen bus station, Xicheng, and get off at the Yanqing Dongguan station.

Tianmuxi River, Zhejiang

The Tianmuxi River, originating in Tianmu Mountain, is clear and shiny. Fish and plants are clearly seen. Green and beautiful mountains stand along the riverside with villages scattered around. Sitting atop a raft is a perfect way to enjoy the area's natural beauty.

Bamboo rafts or rafts made of animal skin are both available for rafting. The duration of a trip down the river is about one and half hours.

You can captain the rafts on your own, and both individuals and groups are welcome. The rafts are two meters wide and nine meters long. At most, nine people can share one raft. Inexperienced rafters may have a hard time controlling the raft, but as

long as you remain balanced, you'll make it to the end point.

Typical local food like rice served in bamboo containers and barbecued meat are served. You can watch performances of trained osprey catching fish in the river, and even have your picture taken with one of the birds on your shoulder.

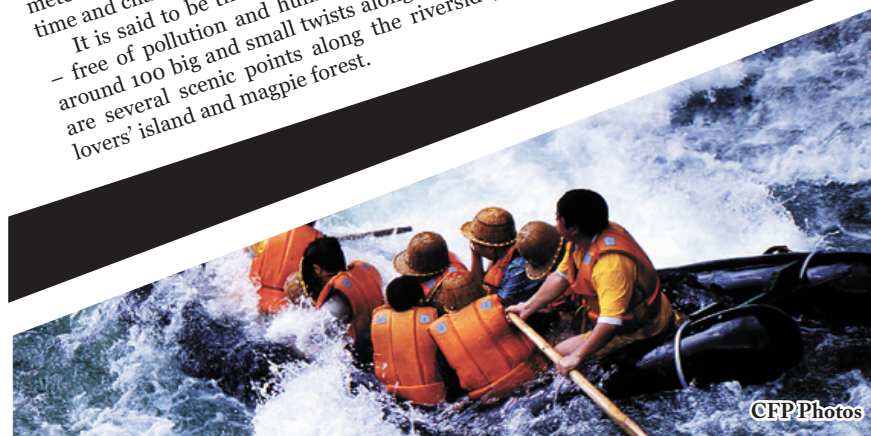
Where: Tianmuxi River, Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province

Admission: 50 yuan per person

Tel: 0571-6437 6173

Getting there: First head to Hangzhou, then take a bus to Tonglu County. From Tonglu, you can find direct buses to the Tianmuxi River.

(By Jackie Zhang)



CFP/Photos

... continued from Page 20

Kawarau River, New Zealand

Located on the South Island, the Kawarau is the largest water volume river in New Zealand for commercial whitewater rafting trips. Its flow from Lake Wakatipu ranges from 2,000 to 20,000 cubic feet per second. The Kawarau offers beginner class II to III rapids. It's close proximity to Queenstown makes it a popular half-day trip. The Kawarau Gorge is four miles long, and the trip lasts about four hours including transfers and shuttles. River trips are available year round.

The Kawarau River is, by itself, an ideal place to relax: stretches of quiet water

allow ample time to practice paddling techniques, gaze at scenery or get caught up in a water fight.

It has four rapids – Smiths Falls, Twin Bridges, Do Little Do Nothing and, of course, the unforgettable 400 meter Chinese Dog Leg. All these rapids make the trip a great introduction to the thrills and adventure of white water rafting.

Between rapids, you will experience calmer stretches of river with a view of the historic Kawarau Bungy Bridge as your raft passes under.

Immerse yourself in the scenic Gibbston Valley and paddle through the Lord of the Rings Pillar of the Kins.

Where: Queenstown Rafting, 35 Shotover Street, Queenstown, South Island, New Zealand

Admission: NZ\$149 per person per time

Tel: +64-3-442 9792

Getting there: Take a flight directly to Queenstown, or fly to Christchurch first, then take a bus to Queenstown. You can find many travel agencies offering rafting services there.



Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

White Water Rafting on the Zambezi River below Victoria Falls has been classified by the British Canoe Union as Grade 5 – “extremely difficult, long and violent rapids, steep gradients, big drops and pressure areas.”

This is a high volume, pool-drop river – little exposed rock dot the rapids and the pools below the rapids. The Zambezi White Water Rafting is internationally acclaimed as being the wildest in the world.

Rafting is conducted on both sides of the Zambezi River, in Zimbabwe and Zambia below Victoria Falls. Options include one and a half day rafting trips and rafting expeditions.

The river is usually navigated in rubber rafts which hold five to six people. River boards and kayaks are also popular for the more masochistic individual.

The most exciting time to raft is during the dry season, July to mid-February, when the water is at its lowest and the rapids at their fastest.

The main rafting options in Victoria Falls are Shearwater Adventures, operating from Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, Safari Par Excellence, in Zimbabwe and Zambia – the latter departure in low water season gives you access to the Boiling Pot, and Adrift/Kandahar, a relatively small outfit offering personalized trips.

Where: The Zambezi River flows along the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe in central southern Africa.

Admission: US\$170 per person with minimum four people; includes one night of camping, breakfast, lunch and dinner; US\$215 per person with minimum four people; includes one night stay at the Doveberry Inn, breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Tel: +263-61-2532

Getting there: Fly to Harare and then on to Victoria Falls, or fly direct to the Falls from Johannesburg, South Africa, Katima Mulilo, Namibia, or Maun, Botswana.



Big Pigeon River, US

The Big Pigeon River in east Tennessee, US, is lined on both sides by the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Gatlinburg/Pigeon Forge and Maggie Valley, providing an accessibly exciting trip for the family.

Since 1978, the river has become a hot spot for rafting. The river is divided into two parts for rafting – depending on the difficulties and risks.

Upper-section trip

The Upper Pigeon carves a gorge through the Great Smoky Mountains. Rafters are immediately confronted with fast moving water and standing waves.

This section boasts twelve class III and three class IV whitewater thrilling rapids. Accompanied by one of

the professional river guides, you'll be escorted down five miles of lively whitewater, rafting through class III and IV rapids such as Too Late, Vegamatic, Razor Blade, After Shave and Lost Guide.

The scenery surrounding the Big Pigeon River is just as breath-taking as the rapids. Skirted by the Great Smoky Mountain National Park and the Pisgah National Forest, the Big Pigeon has carved its rocky riverbed through some of the most dramatic country in East Tennessee.

Lower-section trip

The Lower section of the Big Pigeon River has many class I and II rapids and one class III at the end of the trip. This guide-accompanied float is safe for children ages

three and up.

The guide will assist you, your family and friends down six miles of relaxing waves and rippling mountain water. You can gaze at the beautiful Smoky Mountain surroundings as you casually float this section of the Big Pigeon River.

Where: Seven miles from downtown Gatlinburg, Tennessee, US.

Admission: US\$69, every tenth person free

Tel: +1-865-436 5008 for reservations

Getting there: Fly to Gatlinburg first, then call the reservation line or take a taxi to the Gatlinburg office at I-40 exit 447.

(By Zhao Hongyi)

Little Miss Sunshine (2006)

Starring: Abigail Breslin, Greg Kinnear, Paul Dano, Alan Arkin, Toni Collette
Synopsis: Olive is a little girl with a dream: winning the Little Miss Sunshine contest. Her family wants her dream to come true, but they are so burdened with their own quirks, neuroses, and problems that they can barely make it through a day without some disaster befalling them. Olive's father Richard is a flop as a motivational speaker, and is barely on speaking terms with her mother. Her uncle Frank, a renowned Proust scholar, attempted suicide following an unsuccessful romance with a male graduate student. Her brother Dwayne, a fanatical follower of Nietzsche, has taken a vow of silence to escape, somewhat, from the family whose very presence torments him. Her grandfather is a ne'er-do-well with a drug habit, but who at least enthusiastically coaches Olive in her contest talent routine. Circumstances conspire to put the entire family on the road together with the goal of getting Olive to the Little Miss Sunshine contest in far off California.



Movie of the Week

By Fu Ting

Winner of two Oscars this year, *Little Miss Sunshine* beams darkly about the issues facing a fracturing family.

In a fast-paced world where the concept of the family is eroding, Sunshine tries to bring it all back with a blend of darkness and warmth.

In the old, crowded yellow wagon, each family member must confront his or her own failure, and each must reach out to mend the family's wounds.

Failure in the business, knowing of disability, death of a family member and more pile up on their journey to try the members' bonds.

The true love which once hidden behind all the fears and foes is redeemed on this heart and soul journey for *Little Miss Sunshine*.



Scene 1: Frank's admission at dinner

(Frank's explanation to Olive at the dinner table why he attempted suicide takes the discussion from a somber moment to a funny one because of her reaction.)

Richard: And how Dwayne's utilizing seven of them in his personal quest to self-fulfillment.

Sheryl: Richard, please.

Richard: Well, I'm just

saying I've come around⁽¹⁾. I think he could use our support.

Olive: How did it happen?

Frank: How did what happen?

Olive: Your accident.

Sheryl: Honey, here.

Frank: Oh, no, it's OK. Unless you object.

Sheryl: No, I'm, I'm pro-honesty here. I just think, you know, it's up to you.

Frank: Be my guest.

Sheryl: Olive, um, Uncle Frank didn't really have an accident. What happened was he ... tried to kill himself.

Olive: You did? Why?

Richard: I'm sorry. I don't think this is an appropriate conversation. Honey, let's let Uncle Frank finish his dinner, OK? Shh.

Olive: Why did you want to kill yourself?

Richard: Don't answer the question, Frank.

Sheryl: Richard!

Richard: He's not gonna answer the question. Frank.

Frank: I wanted to kill myself!

Richard: Don't listen to him.

Frank: I was very unhappy.

Richard: He is sick in



his head.

Sheryl: Richard!

Richard: I'm sorry! I don't think it's an appropriate conversation for a seven-year-old.

Sheryl: She's gonna find out anyway.

Scene 2: A dispute inside the VW

(The characters are trying to deal with each other as they traverse the desert in a vehicle resembling a sardine can. Naturally, a fight breaks out.)

Richard: Yeah, this is the guy who knows how to do it. You know, you start with a book, and then you do a media tour, corporate events, DVD, VHS series. I mean, there's a whole fascinating science into how you roll these things out⁽²⁾.

Frank: Wow.



Richard: Yeah, so he's in Scottsdale right now, you know ... building the buzz and kind of getting the whole hype thing going. He's doing what the pros

call a ticking clock auction.

Frank: Oh, how about that! **Richard:** Yeah, and I can detect that note of sarcasm there, Frank.

Frank: What sarcasm? I didn't - I didn't hear it.

Richard: But I want you to know. I feel sorry for you.

Frank: You do? Good.

Richard: Yeah, I do. Because sarcasm is the refuge of losers.

Frank: It is? Really?

Richard: Yep. Sarcasm is

losers trying to bring winners down to their level and that's step four in the program.

Frank: Richard, you've really opened my eyes⁽³⁾ to what a loser I am. How much do I owe you for those pearls of wisdom?

Richard: That one's on the house⁽⁴⁾.

Frank: It is?

Richard: It's on the house. That's on the house.

Sheryl: Okay, you guys, that's enough.

Scene 3: A late night heart to heart talk

(After Olive and Grandpa finish practicing her routine one night, he tucks her into bed. But she has some questions for him that have been on her mind.)

Grandpa: Perfect. Perfect. You're the world champion growler. Time for your beauty rest. Get in there. There you go. Good night.

Olive: Grandpa?

Grandpa: Yeah.



Olive: I'm kinda scared about tomorrow.

Grandpa: Are you kiddin'

me? You're gonna blow 'em out of the water⁽⁵⁾. They're not gonna know what hit 'em.

Olive: I don't want to be a loser.

Grandpa: You're not a loser. Where'd you get the idea you're a loser?

Olive: Because Daddy hates losers.

Grandpa: Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa. Back up⁽⁶⁾ a minute.

You know what a loser is? A real loser is somebody that's so afraid of not winning, they don't even try. Now, you're trying, right?

Olive: Yeah.

Grandpa: Well, then, you're not a loser. We're gonna have fun tomorrow, right?

Olive: Yeah.

Grandpa: We can tell 'em all to go to hell. Good night, sweetie. I love you.

Vocabulary

1. **Come around:** To change one's opinion or decision, especially to agree with another's. "You'd better come around, 'cause your mama is right."

2. **Roll out:** To introduce, to disclose. "They'll hold a TV advertising campaign to roll out the new car."

3. **Open one's eyes:** Become or make someone aware of the truth of a situation. "It's time you opened your eyes to the politics of this office."

4. **On the house:** For free, paid by the restaurant or hotel. "This hotel serves an afternoon tea that's on the house."

5. **Blow out of the water:** To defeat decisively. "With a great new product and excellent publicity, we could blow the competition out of the water."

6. **Back up:** To bring (a stream of traffic) to a standstill. "A stalled car backed up traffic for miles."

'Chinglish' around the world



Chinglish story

This column is drawn from amusing daily Chinglish mistakes. If you have any comical experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

By Chu Meng

If you are blaming yourself right now for speaking a couple awkward English sentences with your friends, do not feel humiliated. For one thing, as Chinese is one of the most complicated languages, you should be madly proud of yourself for having fluently mastered this monster already. For another, people speak much more awkward English than you do every second.

One of my buddies Vincent Wu made many friends when he was in a postgraduate program in the US. He loves inviting his American friends to visit his home when they travel to Beijing. Last week, he took a friend to the Beijing Zoo.

They stopped in front of the "Panda Park" because his friend wanted to feed those cute but clumsy animals some sandwiches. Wu stopped him and said, "Please don't feed the animals. If you have any food, give it to the guard on duty."

"What?" his friend burst into laughter. "You sure the guards want to eat it? It is just leftovers. Besides, they seem to be afraid." Wu said, "Who told you to let guards eat it?"

"You, of course," his friend said.

After spending a whole day in the zoo in such a hot and humid weather, they rushed back to Wu's home. His friend turned on his air-conditioner, and asked for the remote control. Wu said, "If you want to adjust the conditions of warmth in your room, please control yourself."

His friend's face turned red, and then green, and then white. He said angrily, "I want the room to be cool, not warm. And I think I behaved appropriately during my travel these days. How come I need control myself?"

Wu's face turned red, and then green, and then white as well. He didn't know why on earth his American friend was so angry.

By Derrick Sobodash

1. Gender pronouns

Pronouns are surprisingly difficult for many Chinese speakers. It seems to be something that goes deeper than the character for "he" and "she" both being pronounced "ta." Nothing can confuse a conversation faster than when you start referring to your mother as "he" and your male cousin as "she." English is incredibly unforgiving of this mistake. If you really can't remember which to say in the rapidity of conversation, slow down and think about what you would write: does it start with a 人 or a 女? English does not have a gender neutral pronoun for people. Traditionally, the masculine pronoun "he" is used, but many people write "he or she" to be "politically correct." Never use "it": it is only for objects. For trans-sexuals, the news practice is to use the pronoun that fits how the person lives regardless of his legal gender; your mileage may vary.

2. Corporate pronouns

Despite a company like Microsoft being a legal entity, it is not a man.

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch for it each week.

Companies are genderless and should take the singular neutral pronoun "it." Companies would love for you to use "they," as it is humanizing and gives readers warm, fuzzy feelings about what is running to the bank with their money. If you must refer to a company with a gendered pronoun, then refer to its CEO by name since he can take one.

3. "the history"

History is not a noun that normally needs a definite article. You can study history, but not "the history." The only time it needs a definite article is if you were to say, "I'm studying the history of the war of resistance against Japanese aggression." Since this is a specific point in time, you can safely add that "the."

4. "super facial"

This mistake sounds like a new kind of beauty treatment, or perhaps something a little more kinky. Be very careful with spelling. While the etymological logic is tempting, and one could possibly see how this could mean the top of your face, "superficial" derives from Latin roots for "surface."

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Extracts of the Imperial Poet

Extracts of Emperor Qianlong's Imperial Poet

By Derrick Sobodash

Picking Microsoft Word's "best choice" for what you intended to type can have devastating results if you are not checking carefully.

This placard is a fine example of this student mistake – the only problem is it didn't appear on a term paper, but on a custom-printed wall mounting in Chongwen District's flagship historical site, the Temple of Heaven.

If we take this sign literally, it should accompany some kind of urn full of the Imperial poet's innards: an embalmed heart or brain, several meters of small intestine. It is the kind of sign you would expect to see in an Egyptian museum full of sarcophagi, not in China.

I was a little let down when I looked up and saw that the sign was positioned next to some prints of poetry – the moment I realized this sign was guilty of some major Chinglish blunders.

First off, "extracts" refers to something pulled out of from something else. Technically, it can refer to a section pulled from literary work, but we usually call this an "excerpt."

The writer's second mistake is "Poet." A poet is someone who writes poetry. If you are talking about what the person wrote, that is the "poetry." Most likely, they meant to write, "Excerpts of Emperor Qianlong's Imperial poetry."

However, there is still another possibility. Because they wrote "Imperial Poet," the capitalization suggests it was written by a court poet, and not the Emperor himself. If this is the case, we could make it clearer by saying, "Excerpts of the works of Emperor Qianlong's Imperial Poet."

One step from Chinglish

Below are word-pairs so similar, they often confuse non-native English speakers. Some mistakes have even led to Chinglish jokes.

Suit / Fit

Both words are used to describe "to meet the requirements of something." "Suit" is usually to describe the color and pattern, but "fit" is used in length and other things. For example, a color that suits you, "this water isn't fit for drinking. A long-necked giraffe is fit for browsing treetops. "Fit" can also be used to say something is proper or becoming, like "fit behavior" and

"a fit candidate."

Accidental / Accidentally / Accident / Incidental

Accidental things means happening by chance; belonging but not essential; unplanned, unintentional, unpremeditated, uncalculated; unexpected, fortuitous; chance, random: "Our meeting on the street was purely accidental." Accidentally is adverb, saying happening by accident; not intended or

expected: "It was decided that she died accidentally not by any intended cause." Accidentally is often mispronounced and misspelled. The word has five syllables ac-ci-den-tal-ly: "The use of accidentally is considered a gross error and displays a lack of knowledge of what is supposed to be the correct spelling and pronunciation." However, "incidental" means happening as a result or in connection with

something more important; secondary, extraneous, accessory, minor; unexpected: "The incidental costs of the car added up to much more than expected."

Accelerator / Exhilarator

The first word is a pedal or other device to make something go faster, to speed up, quicken the pace: "The car suddenly accelerated and ran into a tree when he stepped too hard on the accelerator." The later word

means something which cheers up, enlivens, stimulates, invigorates, delights: "We were told that it would be a real exhilarator if we were to go for a walk in the beautiful woods and fresh air."

Exhilarate comes from the Greek element hīlaros, "cheerful", which also gives us hilarious, "causing so much cheerfulness that people break out laughing."

(By Gan Tian)



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NEW PUB!

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Friday, July 13

Exhibition Memory



A group exhibition featuring a number of notable artists, including: Chao Ziwei, Chao Ziyi, Hu Pingsheng, Deng Yifu, Han Weihua, Liu Bolin, Li Tianyuan, Liang Yue, Sun Guojuan, Sun Jian, Shen Jingdong, Sun Xuemin, Wang Baoming,

Yu Haibo, Zhou Jun and Yi Liao.
Where: NY Arts Beijing Space, 318 Art Garden, Hegezhuang, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 10am-4pm, until July 29
Admission: Free
Tel: 8457 3298

Movie Brice de Nice

Brice, a super rich 30-year-old, fancies himself as a trendy surfer. Only he has never been out of the French town of Nice where the sea remains desperately calm and flat. Brice awaits a giant wave like the one that happened in 1979. In the meantime, what he lacks in technique he successfully hides



and compensates with in style. In a yellow T-shirt and bleach blonde hair, he has created his own little world where he "axes" people. One morning, his father is sent to jail and "Brice from Nice" is left penniless. He first decides to find out about that thing called "work" – one of his

friends does it – at a local restaurant, but then decides robbing a bank is way easier. While escaping after a failed attempt, he meets Marius who needs money for foot surgery. His new best buddy has an idea about how to get it and all it takes is for Brice to win the \$100,000 prize at the World Underground Surf Cup. It would completely help if Brice had surfed at least one day in his life.

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartments, Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Saturday, July 14

Exhibition Ren Hong Solo Exhibition



Where: LA Gallery, No 319, East End Art, Caochangdi, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10:30am-6pm, until August 7
Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 5093, 6432 5073, 139 0104 5042

Waza Kuya Solo Exhibition



Where: Beijing Tokyo Art Project, Dashanzi Art District, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 10am-6:30pm, until July 29

Admission: Free
Tel: 8457 3245

Shi Jianmin Solo Sculpture Show

Where: Xindong Cheng Space For Contemporary Art 2, Chaoyang Liquor Factory, Beihuqu Jie, Anwai Beiyuan, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-5pm, until September 30
Admission: Free
Tel: 5202 3868

Movie My Dear (Qin Ai De)

It follows a female artist as she pursues an independent life as she attempts to "find herself," while having to deal with a lot of inner conflicts. The film goes inside female artistic circles and shows the struggles of urban women as they deal with: marriage, ideals and reality, confusion, discord and genuine caring for each other. The documentary explores its topic inside and out, through the self-seeking process of the author and



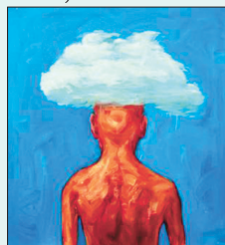
the circles she enters. The film garnered a nomination at the 2007 Yunnan Multi Culture Visual Festival and is currently competing at several international documentary film festivals.

Where: Cherry Lane Movies, inside Kent Center, Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 8pm
Admission: 50 yuan
Tel: 139 0113 4745

Sunday, July 15

Exhibition Group exhibition featuring Jiang Wenyong, Zhang Yexing, Jiao Yan, Yuan Bo, Wu Di



Where: Coutyard Gallery, No 319 Caochangdi, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11am-7pm, until August 7
Admission: Free
Tel: 6526 8882, 6434 9144

Dong Jun Solo Exhibition

Where: Long March Space A, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11am-7pm, until August 12
Admission: Free
Tel: 6438 7107, 134 6638 6890

Liu Liguang Porcelain Sculpture Exhibition

Where: Xindong Cheng Space For Contemporary Art 1,

No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10am-5pm, until August 31

Admission: Free
Tel: 6433 4579

Movie La Bonne Année

Released from prison apparently under a New Year amnesty, a criminal tries to pick up the threads of a life changed not only by his daring plan to rob jewelers in out-of-season Cannes, but by someone special he met there.

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai Interna-



tional Apartments, Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Stage in August

Music

Yndi Halda Beijing Concert

Who: Yndi Halda (Enjoy the Eternal Bliss in English), a rock band from the UK

Where: Star Live Music Hall, 3F Candy (Tangguo) Xinguang Xianchang, 79 Heping Xijie, Dongcheng

When: 8:30pm, August 3
Admission: 60-80 yuan

Broadway Music Opera Mamma Mia!



This hilarious musical comedy revolves around Sophie (Tina Madigan), who is trying to find out who her real father is so that he can give her away at her wedding. It turns out that the mother, Donna (Louise Pitre), had intimate relations with three people during the summer of love, and the father could be any one of the three. So Donna surreptitiously invites all three of them to the wedding. They all show up and to the chagrin of Louise, all want to give Donna away.

Who: Catherine Johnson, Benney Anderson, Bjorn Ulvaeus, Stig Anderson ...

Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng
When: 7:30pm, August 7-19
Admission: 180-2,008 yuan

Dream Back Spain

– Recital of Classical Guitar
Who: The Beijing Philharmonic Guitar Trio

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng
When: 7:30pm, August 16
Admission: 10-100 yuan

Asian Youth Orchestra China Tour Beijing Concert

Who: Asian Youth Orchestra
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng
When: 7:30pm, August 17-18
Admission: 20-100 yuan

Drama

The Dinner Game



A Chinese adaptation of Francis Veber's play *Le Dîner de Cons*. It follows the story of Pierre Brochant, a successful Parisian publisher, who attends a weekly "idiots' dinner." Each guest must bring along an "idiot" for the amusement of the other invitees. At the end of the dinner the evening's "champion idiot" is selected. Brochant manages to find an exceptional idiot: Francois Pignona, a taxation bureau employee with a passion for building replicas with matchsticks.

Who: Dashan and Guo Donglin
Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng
When: 7:30pm, August 29-31
Admission: 100-680 yuan

(By Qiu Jiaoning)